

The Blackhawk

COURIER

A Publication of Blackhawk Area Council

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2016 Friends of Scouting Spring (January-April) Unit Incentive Program

Unit 10% Program – Earn a 10% Bonus By Providing Your Own Trained Presenter!

If the unit provides or recruits own Friends of Scouting presenter and they take training, you will only need to achieve 90% of their Unit Friends of Scouting goal to be eligible for the Bronze Level. So with your own trained presenter, an actual goal of \$1,000 is rewarded at \$900.

Unit requirements for incentive levels:

- 1) Inform district of presentation date and presenter by December 31, 2015
- 2) Presenter trained at district training in December or one-on-one by district staff
- 3) Achieve Unit FOS Goal (10% qualifiers or actual goal)
- 4) Complete Friends of Scouting presentation by April 30, 2016
- 5) 60% of registered families make a gift to Friends of Scouting

BRONZE LEVEL

1 YEAR OF FREE RANK ADVANCEMENTS (MAY 1, 2016 - April 30, 2017)
(i.e. Actual goal of \$1,000 becomes \$900)

To Qualify:

- 1) Achieve Unit Friends of Scouting goal (10% goal if applicable)
AND
- 2) Complete 2 of the remaining Unit requirements (see list above)

SILVER LEVEL

Bronze Award Plus:

\$10 gift card for every \$150 increment over ACTUAL goal
**Redeemable at the council's National Scout Stores in Rockford or Crystal Lake

To Qualify:

- 1) Achieve Bronze requirements
AND
- 2) One additional Unit requirement

GOLD LEVEL

Bronze and Silver Awards Plus:

Cub Scouts: Free Pinewood Derby Cars for Entire Pack
(based on April's recharter membership number)

Boy Scouts/Venturing: Free off-season cabin rental at Canyon/Lowden
(Does not include Boeger Lodge)

To Qualify:

- 1) Complete all 5 Unit Requirements (see list above)

Council Calendar

December

- 8 Council Executive Board meeting
- 8 Courier copy due --
- 24 Christmas Eve, council service center closed
- 25 Christmas Day, council service center closed
- 30 Diehl Scholarship Applications due
- 31 New Year's Eve, council service center closed

January 2016

- 1 New Year's Day, council service center closed
- 5 Courier copy due – Internet edition for February through April events
- 16 Order of the Arrow Banquet
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr., Day, council service center closed
- 21 Council Coordinated Committee meetings

February

- 7 Scout Sunday
- 7-13 Scout Week
- 9 Courier copy due – Internet edition for March through May events
- 10 Ash Wednesday
- 13 Scout Sabbath
- 15 President's Day, council service center closed
- 17 Council Commissioners meeting
- 18 Council Executive Board meeting
- 27 Scouting for Food flyer distribution

March

- 5 Scouting for Food Day – pick up food
- 5 Trainer's EDGE
- 6 Council Recognition Dinner
- 8 Courier copy due – printed edition April through August events
- 13 Daylight Saving Time begins
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 Palm Sunday
- 25 Good Friday, council service center closed
- 27 Easter

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.



Revised Schedule for Printed and Internet *Couriers*

Beginning with this issue of the *Blackhawk Courier*, there will be **four** printed editions each year, instead of six. A revised schedule is shown below. The printed editions will continue to be available at www.BlackhawkScouting.org/courier. Note that recipients of the Eagle Scout Award and religious emblems will only be carried in printed editions -- and will not show up on the Internet versions of the printed edition.

Clip and Save

Deadline + Type	Months Covered	Mail Date or Web Target Date
Dec. 8 -- Printed	Jan. through April	December 22
Jan. 5, 2016 -- Internet	Feb. through April	January 13
Feb. 9 -- Internet	Feb. through May	February 17
March 8 -- Printed	April through July	March 22
April 5 -- Internet	May through July	April 13
May 10 -- Internet	June through August	May 18
June 7 -- Internet	July through Sept.	June 15
July 5 -- Internet	August through Oct.	July 13
August 9 -- Printed	Sept. through Dec.	August 23

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

Commissioners

Commissioners are district and council leaders who help Scout units succeed. They coach and consult with adult leaders of Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, and Venturing crews. Commissioners help maintain the standards of the Boy Scouts of America.



Retention Mission Statement

The retention mission of the commissioner corps is best achieved by providing an adequate number of trained unit commissioners who provide a link to district committee resources in support of a quality unit program.

Unit commissioners will focus on the following four primary areas:

- Supporting unit growth through the Journey to Excellence.
- Contacting units and capturing their strengths and needs in Commissioner Tools.
- Linking unit needs to district operating committee resources.
- Supporting timely charter renewal. A commissioner plays several roles, including friend, representative, unit “doctor,” teacher, and counselor.

The commissioner is a friend of the unit. Of all their roles, this one is the most important. It springs from the attitude, “I care, I am here to help, what can I do for you?” Caring is the ingredient that makes commissioner service successful. He or she is an advocate of unit needs. A commissioner who makes himself known and accepted now will be called on in future times of trouble.

he commissioner is a representative. The average unit leader is totally occupied in working with kids. Some have little if any contact with the Boy Scouts of America other than a commissioner’s visit to their meeting. To them, the commissioner may be the BSA. The commissioner helps represent the ideals, the principles, and the policies of the Scouting movement.

The commissioner is a unit “doctor.” In their role as “doctor,” they know that prevention is better than a cure, so they try to see that their units make good “health practices” a way of life. When problems arise, and they will even in the best unit, they act quickly. They observe symptoms, diagnose the real ailment, prescribe a remedy, and follow up on the patient.

The commissioner is a teacher. As a commissioner, they will have a wonderful opportunity to participate in the growth of unit leaders by sharing knowledge with them. They teach not just in an academic environment, but where it counts most—as an immediate response to a need to know. That is the best adult learning situation since the lesson is instantly reinforced by practical application of the new knowledge.

The commissioner is a counselor. As a Scouting counselor, they will help units solve their own problems. Counseling is the best role when unit leaders don’t recognize a problem and where solutions are not clear-cut. Everyone needs counseling from time to time, even experienced leaders.

Unit Commissioners are appointed by the district commissioner with the approval of the council executive board.

Unit commissioners should—

- Have excellent people skills
- Have a Scouting background or be fast-track learners
- Know and practice Scouting ideals

If you – or someone you know – might be interested in becoming a commissioner, please contact your district commissioner.

Alumni News

U. S. Grant Pilgrimage – Galena by Jef Heckinger

I first participated in the U. S. Grant Pilgrimage in April 1963 and have enjoyed the experience ever since. As Scouts, we camped at Rec Park and hiked in and out of the city, about a half mile each way. In those days, there were three to six thousand Scouts and Scouters. We always stayed Friday and Saturday night and reconnoitered Galena. Each of us completed the trail and many of us learned to trade patches at the Pilgrimage.

If my memory is correct, the event was put on by two women, I believe sisters, and the U. S. Grant Council from Freeport provided the manpower. In those days a Scout had to write a book report about one of the seven Civil War generals who served with the Union. I will let you guess which general we all wrote our report about. For the book report and fifty cents you received a Pilgrimage neckerchief for that particular year.

My troop attended the event in a bus each year so there was always thirty or more of us. Some of the Scouts would not prepare a book report and did not want the neckerchief. So several of the older Scouts, me

included, would sit in the rear of the bus and prepare book reports to pick up extra trading material.

I remember my troop participating in bucket brigades and tug-o-wars and helping Father McNamee for the Catholic service.

Some of my most vivid memories is the weather. The U. S. Grant Pilgrimage is always the last full weekend in April and I have seen it rain, show, sleet, and ninety degrees! I remember putting my tent up on Friday night with it was fifty degrees and climbing out of the tent Saturday morning to three inches of snow.

We always marched in the parade and Lee Binkley was ever present in both a staff and a leadership position. If your unit – pack, troop, crew, ship – does not attend and participate in the U. S. Grant Pilgrimage, I highly recommend it. And please stop by the Market Square and visit me. I will be trading patches and visiting with new friends and old friends.

See you there!

Council Disabilities Awareness Committee (CDAC)

It is our privilege to introduce ourselves. We are the Council Disability Awareness Committee – CDAC – that was formed in April 2015.

We are all aware that there are Scouts who might have a disability and, with the training that we have from National, we were taught that we don't look at a Scout or a Scouter on what they can't do – we look at their abilities.

Our committee is here to welcome any Scouting family into the family of Blackhawk Area Council. People may have had many questions about how handle Scouts and Scouters with disabilities. That is why we are here to help fill in those gaps and to answer those questions.

We are planning to get out and about to present disability awareness to the roundtables and other council events.

We thank you very much for taking the time to read about our committee.

Abilities Digest Is Available Subscribe Now!

A newsletter called *Abilities Digest* is published quarterly by the National Disabilities Awareness Committee. The committee's purpose is to spread the word about Scouting for youth who have disabilities.

This newsletter will provide advice, program updates, resources for parents and leaders, success stories, training pointers, and from time to time, surveys to find best practices, and to determine gaps in information its readers are seeking.

Anyone wishing to subscribe to *Abilities Digest* should send a message to disabilities.awareness@scouting.org. Place "Subscribe" in the subject line, and include your name and council in the body of the message.

What Can Councils Do to Help Scouting for Those With Disabilities?

Councils are a key resource for providing local understanding, experience, and knowledge to Scouters who serve youth with disabilities.

- How is this possible? Councils can provide information to volunteers, leaders, and parents about how Scouting can benefit youth with disabilities and how the leaders and volunteers can address the challenges encountered.
- Why is providing this information an important function for a council? Most, if not all, units have at least one member who has some sort of disability. In fact, recent surveys suggest the percentage of Scouting youth who have disabilities may be close to 15 percent! The requirement for information and resources is thus greater than most think. Consequently, youth with disabilities may not be getting the most out of Scouting.

The newly formed Blackhawk Area Council CDAC is here to help in these matters. The Scouting for Youth with Disabilities Manual, No. 34059, is available at www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34059.pdf. This is one resource a unit could use on their own or contact the Blackhawk Area Council CDAC.

Council and district committees and units are not alone! The National Disabilities Awareness Committee stands ready to provide guidance and support to any volunteer who e-mails inquiries to disabilities.awareness@scouting.org. A network of volunteers from across the country are eager to help.

The CDAC committee was formed on April 23, 2015, and is currently be made up of the following persons:

Roland Barnes – At-large member Council Advancement Committee
Ray Gruber – White Eagle District Advancement Chairman
Elizabeth Hollis – Wetassa District Advancement Chairman
Mary Anne Rounds – At-large member Council Advancement Committee
Cannie Ware – BSA All Markets Executive
The Blackhawk Area Council CDAC contact – Daniel Persinger – danielpersinger901@gmail.com or phone 815-226-1415
John Messley – CDAC Chairperson, john@messley.com or phone 815-282-5197.

For further information, go to the BSA's Disabilities Awareness website: www.scouting.org/disabilitiesawareness.aspx. There are many resources available at this site.



Stateline William T. Hornaday Award Collaboration

“The Olympic Medal Bestowed by the Earth” This is how the Boy Scouts of America describes the William T. Hornaday Awards. Dr. William T. Hornaday, an outspoken advocate of natural resource conservation, created an award to recognize wildlife conservation and habitat protection. After his death in 1937, BSA created the Hornaday Awards to encourage and recognize truly outstanding efforts by Scouting units, Scouts, and Venturers who have contributed significantly to natural resource conservation and environmental protection.

The Hornaday Award is one of the most coveted awards in Boy Scouting with only approximately 1,100 medals earned in the past 80 years. The Award may take several months to complete and generally requires the support of a conservation expert as an advisor, cooperation of a land management advisor, and the completion of several merit badges among other requirements. If a Scout chooses an environmental project for their Eagle project, that same project may be submitted for the Hornaday Award.

To assist with earning the merit badges, three local nonprofit organizations are collaborating to offer several of the required merit badges: Boone County Conservation District (BCCD), Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden, and Burpee Museum of Natural History.

The following badges will be offered by at least one of the organizations:

Required badges (Scout must earn three):

Energy, Environmental Science, Fish and Wildlife Management, Forestry, Soil and Water Conservation

Elective badges (Scouts must earn any two): Bird Study, Fly-Fishing, Gardening, Geology, Insect Study, Landscape Architecture, Mammal Study, Nature, Plant Science, Reptile and Amphibian Study, and Weather

(Other alternate badges may be eligible for the Award, but those are not currently being offered by the local organizations. A list of all of the specific badges for earning the William T. Hornaday Award can be found on the BSA website. For more information on merit badges offered by each organization, visit their web site.)

For The Hornaday Badge- three required merit badges, two elective merit badges, and lead one natural resource project.

For The Hornaday Bronze Medal- Environmental Science merit badge, three additional required merit, two elective merit badges, and lead three projects from three separate categories.

For The Hornaday Silver Medal- Six required merit badges, three elective merit badges, and four projects in four separate natural resource categories.

For more information on the William T. Hornaday Awards program visit: <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards.aspx>

For more information on merit badges offered by the local nonprofit organizations contact Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden, www.Klehm.org, Arrie Schommer, 815-965-8146; the Boone County Conservation District, www.bccdi.org, Tina Dawson, 815-547-7935; or Burpee Museum, www.burpee.org, Lisa Johnson, 815-965-3433.



National Summertime Pack Award

Did your pack conduct an activity each month this past summer? Did you go to day camp? What about a picnic, hike, or sporting event?

If your pack held an activity each month during June, July, and August, the pack qualifies for the National Summer Time Pack Award. In order to receive the award, however, you must apply for it.

Applications are available from the council service center and are on the CD in the program planning kit your pack received at the district's program planning kickoff.

If your pack qualified for the award, there are two other recognitions available. A den ribbon is available for each den that had 50% of its members at each event. In addition, any Cub Scout who attended all three events may purchase the National Summertime Pack Award pin. There are pins available for each program – Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos.

Your pack must apply by the end of this calendar year, so don't delay.

If your pack did not qualify this year, be sure to include summer activities in your pack's calendar next year. This is one of the things your pack can do to help earn the Journey to Excellence Award. It's also fun.

Advancement Audit

Members of the district and council advancement committees will be conducting an “advancement audit” in the next few weeks. We have discovered that quite a few Scouts have no record of having received a rank advancement.

Every pack and troop is asked to send copies of the current registered Scouts and their current advancement records to the council service center as soon as possible. If your unit uses digital record keeping systems like Troop Tracker or CubMaster, you can send a digital copy or can call Melinda at the council service center, 815-397-0210 ext 7530 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to have her walk you through getting these systems to talk to each other to do the audit update.

In some units, Advancement Reports are taken to another council to purchase the appropriate awards. Unfortunately, these reports are not always forwarded to Blackhawk Area Council to update each individual Scout's record. Some ranks require a specific tenure – and when there is no record of the last rank advancement, it creates a problem to track down the exact date of the last rank advancement. This is especially important to potential Eagle Scouts.

Your list of current ranks of all registered Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts can also be turned in at the roundtable. The council goal is to have every Scout's advancement record up-to-date as soon as possible. In our effort to deliver our Scouting program, it is important that each Scouts is recognized in a timely manner.

101 Service Project Ideas

Is your den, pack, troop, or crew looking for ideas for service projects. "Bryan on Scouting," October 9, 2015, has a list of 101 ideas, all of which meet *Guide to Safe Scouting* guidelines.

And those service hours count toward your Journey to Excellence, or JTE, score.

At the pack level, you can achieve JTE bronze status by completing two service projects in the year — and entering them on the JTE website. Complete three service projects, and you'll get silver. If at least one of those three is conservation-oriented, you'll get gold.

At the troop and team levels, it's three projects a year for bronze, four for silver and five for gold. At the crew and ship levels, it's two for bronze, three for silver and four for gold.



Scouting U Launches New BSA LearnCenter

Connecting volunteers to the learning content they need when they need it is the purpose of the new BSA LearnCenter. In today's fast-paced world Scouting volunteers want to know how to deliver quality Scouting programs to youth but need access to training in short learning segments.

Delivering a quality Scouting program makes volunteering as a leader rewarding. When the Scouting program is delivered as designed, leaders get to see the youth become more confident and resilient and begin to learn and practice leadership at all levels.

The BSA LearnCenter is designed to provide new and robust methods of delivering learning to leaders. Position-specific training is now delivered in three parts called learning plans. The content for each learning plan is designed for the specific position and is recommended to be taken before the first meeting, within the first 30 days, and to complete position-specific training within 90 days. The training program is self-paced, allowing the volunteer to complete the training as quickly as he or she would like.

The first content offered in the new BSA LearnCenter is for Cub Scouting leaders. This content supports the new program changes to Cub Scouting. To access the training, log into My.Scouting.org. Create an account if you are a new leader, and select the online training button on the home page.

Keep up-to-date on new content by selecting the "What's New" tab in the BSA LearnCenter. New content will be added regularly to support our volunteers.



Who's going to be the first in the Blackhawk Area Council to Conquer the Swamp!

Blackhawk Area Council is sending a contingent of 22 Scouts and Scouters to the Atchafalaya Swamp Base in Louisiana for a nine day excursion from July 18 to July 26, 2016. We're looking for Boy Scouts, Venturers, and adult leaders who have nerves of steel to be the first from our council to explore this new high adventure base.

Travel details are still being finalized, but the cost for the entire trip including Swamp Base Trek fee, transportation, hotels, food, and amenities is targeted at or below \$995.

We anticipate this opportunity to fill up quickly, so we will be taking reservations on a first come/first served basis. For more information, or to reserve your spot, please contact Blair Piotrowski at 847-712-0867 or blair@panatek.com or Emily Rinaldi at 815-397-0210 or emily.rinaldi@scouting.org

Do you want to wear the only BSA patch with a REAL alligator tooth hanging from it? Sign up today!



Earn Welding Merit Badge Through Rock Valley College

Friday, February 5, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Council Program Center, 7194 Vandiver Road, Cherry Valley
 *Brief safety overview

Saturday, February 6, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Rock Valley College
 Southwest corner of the Stenstrom Center, 4151 Samuelson Road,
 Rockford 61109
 *Hands on welding instruction and activity

This merit badge opportunity is offered by Rock Valley College with help from the American Welding Society – Blackhawk Chapter

***Limit of 12 Boy Scouts**

Contact and to register: George F. Bane, 815-997-6604 or
 G.Bane@RockValleyCollege.edu

Check out the Rockford and Crytal Lake Scout Shops!

25% OFF
 When you buy 2 or more pairs
LIMITED TIME ONLY

Offer good November 8, 2015 – January 2, 2016. ©2015 THOR•LO, Inc.



Baden-Powell's Scouting Promise: "First Duty Is to God"

Sir Robert Baden-Powell once stated, "The Scout, in his promise, undertakes to do his duty to his king and country only in the second place; his first duty is to God...."

With its increased emphasis on duty to God, the Cub Scout adventure program helps a Cub Scout and his family to keep Baden-Powell's words at the forefront of their shared Scouting experience.

Each Cub Scout rank now has a required Duty to God adventure. It is recommended that these adventures be primarily accomplished within the family, but dens and packs may work on these adventures as appropriate.

- Tiger Scouts completing the adventure, My Family's Duty to God, will decide what duty to God means to their family.
- Wolf Scouts completing the adventure, Duty to God Footsteps, will participate in activities to better understand their duty to God.
- Cub Scouts working to achieve the Bear adventure, Fellowship and Duty to God, the Webelos adventure, Duty to God and You, or the Arrow of Light adventure, Duty to God in Action, have the option to participate in their faith's religious emblems program or to complete alternative activities. Bear Scouts will be learning ways to practice their duty to God; Webelos Scouts will be planning a service of worship or reflection; and those working towards their Arrow of Light rank will be learning how the Scout Oath and Law relate to their beliefs about duty to God.

Leaders need to recognize that there is a difference between the Duty to God adventures within each Cub Scout rank and the religious emblem program. The Boy Scouts of America has approved of these non-BSA programs and allows the recognition to be worn on the official uniform, but it must be remembered that each religious organization develops and administers its own program. Scouts working on the religious emblem of their faith will obtain the specific booklet for their religion, and once they have completed the requirements, may wear the youth religious knot. However, once a religious emblem has been earned, it may not be used as a requirement for a different rank.

Whether a Cub Scout chooses to work on the religious emblems program or to complete the alternative activities, he will still learn to put into practice daily actions to show his duty to God.

Religious Emblems Program

For more information on the religious emblems program and how your Scout can participate, see www.scouting.org/scoutsources/Awards/ReligiousAwards.



Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Boy Scout Merit Badge Programs 2015- 2016

Saturday, January 23 – Weather

Saturday, February 27 –

Environmental Science

Saturday, April 2 – Plant Science

Saturday, April 30 – Forestry

Saturday, May 14 – Fly Fishing

- Parents are welcome to stay, but will need to pay Arboretum admission.
- Programs vary in price (\$10 to \$15)
- Advance registration and payment is required. Payment is due at the time of registration. Your registration is not confirmed until payment is received.
- Register online at klehm.org or at Klehm Arboretum
- Badges, pins, and blue cards are not provided.

Call 815-965-8146

Email: [Carrie Schommer -- CSchommer@klehm.org](mailto:CSchommer@klehm.org)

For more information, visit our website: klehm.org

Cub Scout Adventure Packs

Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden will offer Cub Scouts the opportunity to complete several “adventures” as they are working on their badge of rank. Cub Scouts can complete these self-guided adventures with a parent or as part of a den.

Each adventure is based on the new Cub Scout program and focuses on learning by doing and exposing Cub Scouts to new places!

The following adventures will be available at Klehm:

- **Tiger:** Tigers in the Wild*, Backyard Jungle
- **Wolf:** Paws on the Path*, Finding Your Way, Grow Something
- **Bear:** Fur, Feathers, and Ferns*
- **Webelos:** Webelos Walkabout*, Into the Wild, Into the Woods

Required adventures

Here’s how your den can complete an adventure at Klehm:

- Decide which fun adventure to complete.
- Visit www.klehm.org and download the PDF file of the requirements to prepare for your adventure.
- Contact Klehm to reserve your Cub Scout Adventure Pack** for the day of your visit.
- Visit Klehm and take a self-guided tour of the Arboretum, which has over 155 acres and over 300 tree specimens. Cost is \$6/adult, \$3/Scout. Free for members of Klehm.

Cub Scout Adventure Pack

Klehm’s Cub Scout Adventure Pack is a backpack that contains all the materials that you will need to complete your adventure. Each adventure has its own special backpack that includes a notebook, writing utensils, required supplies, and the printed requirements. Backpacks can be reserved at the Visitor Center and are free for Cub Scouts.

For more information about Klehm’s new Cub Scout Adventure Program or to request membership information, visit klehm.org or contact Carrie Schommer at CSchommer@klehm.org

Countdown to Transition



“No Webelos Scout should start his fifth-grade year without a clear path ahead of him that leads to a Boy Scout troop.”

One of the most important events in the life of a Cub Scout is transition from Webelos Scouts into a Boy Scout troop. But this event doesn't just happen. It has to be planned well in advance.

Throughout the fifth-grade year for a Webelos Scout, many things must happen, by many people. This is the beginning of a series of articles to help all of those involved in the Webelos-to-Scout transition process learn what needs to be done—and when to do it.

Webelos Scouts need to be given a samples of the troop program, troop leadership, advancement opportunities, and the fun and excitement

of Boy Scouting. The transition program affirms that the Webelos Scout will be ready to be part of the Boy Scout program and that he will be welcomed into a troop. The joint den/troop activities let him see boy leadership at work and sense his own potential as a leader.

The people who are involved in the transition program are fifth-grade Webelos den leaders, Cubmasters, Scoutmasters and troop committee members, and unit commissioners.

The “Tracking Sheet” and other transition information can be found at “Scouting.org/Webelos_to_Scout transition” or “Improved Webelos Transition.”

For November...

Cubmasters

- Invite a Scoutmaster to attend the Blue and Gold Banquet and sit with the Webelos den(s) as an honored guest.
- Ask the Scoutmaster to make plans to assist with the transition ceremony at the banquet.

Webelos Den Leaders of

Fifth-Grade Webelos Scouts

- Take Webelos Scouts and parents to visit a troop meeting.
- Ask the troop to appoint a Webelos den chief if the den does not have one.

Scoutmasters

(or Webelos Resource Chairman)

- Invite Webelos Scouts to visit a troop meeting.
- Have a Webelos parents' night to promote the troop's summer camp and encourage Webelos Scouts' participation. Provide information, schedule, and statement of fees.

Unit Commissioners

- Assist in a Webelos den visit to a quality troop meeting.

For December...

Cubmasters

- With the Webelos den leader and Scoutmaster, plan special Webelos transition ceremony for the February pack meeting. (See *Cub Scout Ceremonies for Dens and Packs* for ideas.)

Fifth Grade Webelos Den Leaders

- Encourage Webelos Scouts to decide to join a troop.
- Assist the Cubmaster in planning special transition ceremony for Webelos Scouts at the February pack meeting.

Scoutmasters

- Assist with February pack meeting and Webelos Scout transition.
- Prepare plans for March troop meeting to orient new Scouts to the troop program and summer camp preparation.

Unit Commissioners

- Assist in planning special transition ceremony for Webelos Scouts at their February pack meeting.

For January...

Cubmasters

- Check on progress of the planning of the transition ceremony for the February pack meeting.

Fifth Grade Webelos Den Leaders

- Have all Webelos Scouts decided to join a troop? If not, find out why and encourage their visits to several troops.
- Assist the Cubmaster in planning special transition ceremony for Webelos Scouts at the February pack meeting.

Scoutmasters

- Plan to take part in the Webelos Scout transition at the blue and gold banquet.
- Prepare plans for March troop meeting to orient new Scouts to the troop program and summer camp preparation.

Unit Commissioners

- Follow up with Webelos den leaders to make sure all of their Webelos Scouts have had an opportunity to visit one or more troops and have made plans to join one of them.

For February...

Cubmasters

- Conduct Webelos transition at pack meeting. Ensure that Webelos Scouts register and become Boy Scouts.

Webelos Den Leaders for Fifth-Grade Dens

- Graduate Webelos Scouts into Boy Scouting. Have boys complete a Scout application and register with a troop. Make *Boy Scout Handbooks* available.

Scoutmasters

- Attend the February pack meeting and assist in transition ceremony. Register new Scouts with the troop.

Unit Commissioners

- Attend transition. Ensure that new Scouts are registered, and are informed of troop program and meeting schedules.
- Help troops submit applications and a transition report to the council service center.

BSA Now Offers 13 Interactive Digital Merit Badge Pamphlets

*From Byron on Scouting,
November 4, 2015*

First there were four. Then eight. Now the list of interactive digital merit badge pamphlets has ballooned to 13.

And the best part is the BSA isn't stopping any time soon.

The Boy Scouts of America recently released five more interactive digital merit badge pamphlets. The newest batch includes exclusively Eagle-required merit badges: Camping, Hiking, Cycling, Swimming and Citizenship in the Nation.

Some Scouters have asked why their Scouts should opt for the interactive digital pamphlets over the ink-and-paper variety. These advantages are what sold me:

- Exclusive videos, including how-to clips, career bios, virtual tours and multimedia experiences
- Search, so you can find what you need quickly
- Simulations, animations, photo slideshows and graphics
- Interactive Q&A's

Like all things digital, these don't take up any extra space in your backpack. And you get it all for the same cost as the print pamphlets: \$4.99.

You're getting the best value by going with the interactive digital edition. But don't take my word for it; check one out for yourself.

Which Merit Badges Are Digital?

- Animation
- Camping
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Communication
- Cooking
- Cycling
- Digital Technology
- Family Life
- First Aid
- Hiking
- Personal Fitness
- Robotics
- Swimming



Is this the Same as What's on Amazon?

No. These interactive digital merit badge pamphlets aren't the same as the digital merit badge pamphlets sold on Amazon.com.

The big difference? Interactivity.

The ones on Amazon are searchable and available on any device with a Kindle app, but they don't include the BSA's custom-designed interactive elements.

The interactive digital merit badge pamphlets, on the other hand, are available on iPad, iPhone, Android and Web browsers and include all of the BSA's resources for that merit badge.

No matter which version you choose — print, Amazon Kindle edition, interactive digital edition — you'll spend \$4.99 apiece.

Have Some Fun! A Comic Strip About Scouting That Only Scouters Will Understand

(From Bryan on Scouting blog, June 26, 2015)

An article on the "Bryan on Scouting" blog was posted June 26 that only Scouts will really understand.

These comic strips show those funny, heartwarming, only-in-Scouting moments that make this program unlike any other.

Arwen Spor, a Scouter from Nevada, has been inspired to create a Scouting-themed comic strip she calls Covey Logic.

She posts a comic or two each week about a range of Scouting subjects: Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, camping, advancement, Wood Badge, and more.

Go to www.facebook.com/CoveyLogic and check out the cartoons. Some are laugh-out-loud funny. Others will make you nod in agreement because you've been there, done that. Still others remind you why you spend "an hour a week" volunteering.

The common thread: You need to be a Scouter to understand them. And that is the highest praise.



New NYLT Trained Patch

NYLT patch offers a new way for Scouts and Venturers to show they're trained.

How do you identify a young person who has attended National Youth Leadership Training, the council-level course also known as NYLT?

You can look for the Scout or Venturer who is confident in his or her leadership role. You can look for the Scout or Venturer who practices servant leadership, valuing the team above the individual.

Or, starting now, you can look for the Scout or Venturer with the green-and-khaki patch that says "NYLT."

Over six days of NYLT, which is essentially Wood Badge for Scouts and Venturers, young people enjoy action-packed activities, games and adventures as they work together and play together to put Scouting values into action.

Once they've completed the course, Scouts and Venturers can wear one of two patches:

- The regular "Trained" patch, which also may be worn by Scouts who have completed troop training, Venturers who have completed Crew Officers Orientation and Personal Safety Awareness training or adults who meet the requirements.
- The new NYLT trained strip emblem



Be MedWise Award

The Boy Scouts of America and the National Council on Patient Information and Education (NCPPIE) developed the SCOUTStrong Be MedWise Award as an interactive way to educate members of Boy Scouting, Venturing, and American youth in general about the importance of safely and responsibly using medicines.

Survey data show that 50 percent of teens begin to self-medicate with over-the-counter medicines in their homes as early as ages 11 to 12, and each year, there are approximately 10,000 children and teens seen in emergency rooms because of errors made in the self-medication of OTC medicines. This program improves the knowledge gap that youth have when it comes to medicines and will teach skills needed to use medicines responsibly.

This award is designed to complement existing Boy Scouting and Venturing programming. This award's training curriculum consists of four lessons that could be reviewed at the start of a unit meeting, taking no more than 12 to 15 minutes each. The program is self-paced, which allows the unit leader to determine how quickly it is completed.

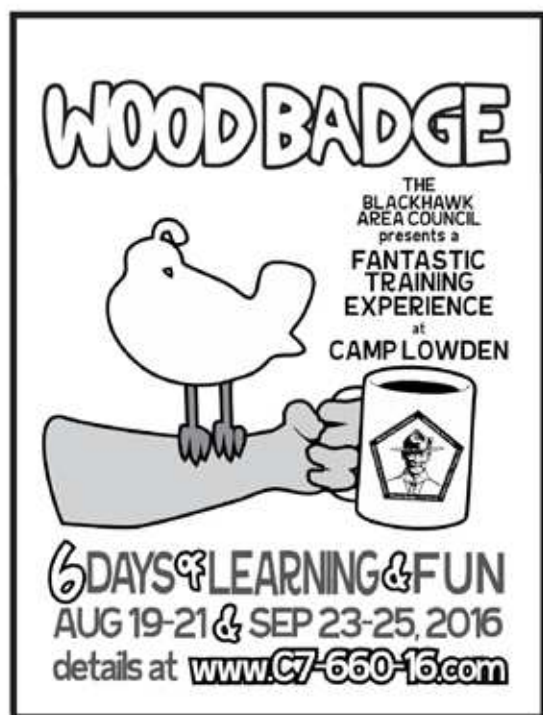
Upon completion of the SCOUTStrong Be MedWise curriculum, youth will be able to do the following:

- Understand what prescription and OTC medicines are, and the ways they are the same and different.
- Learn how to use medicines safely.
- Know what's on the Drug Facts label.

Getting Started

Earning the SCOUTStrong® Be MedWise patch is easy! Just follow the steps below:

1. Review the Curriculum. Have your unit review each of the four lessons in this curriculum. Go to the Resources section below and download the PDF files for the leader manual and lessons. This curriculum has been prepared specifically for ages 11-17, and each lesson must be followed specifically as written.
2. Complete the Exercises. Where applicable, have all unit participants successfully complete the activity and/or supplemental exercises for the corresponding SCOUTStrong® Be MedWise lesson.
3. To Print Your Certificates and Order Patches, Go online to SCOUTStrong Be MedWise



Resources for Packs and Den Leaders

On June 1, 2015, the new Cub Scouting program went into effect. This was the most significant change in the Cub Scout program since the introduction of the current Webelos rank in 1967. All of the council's districts have had a presentation on the new advancement program at spring roundtables. Here are resources for den and pack leaders to help plan their meetings.

Youth Resources

Youth handbooks:

- Completely revised and rewritten
- Serves as the youth's guide through the program
- Outlines advancement system
- Outlines additional available recognition
- Written with youth interests in mind; feedback from adults and youth.

Key Den Leader Resources

New leader guidebooks

- Designed as a "one stop" reference to lead the new Cub Scouting adventures
- Preserves historic den meeting structure
- Full set of resources to organize and lead den meetings
- Materials may be "passed down" to leaders using the program the following year
- Pilot testing affirmed that leaders were able to use the program materials to efficiently plan and deliver the den meetings as designed

Cubmaster Resources

Pack Meeting Plans

- Pack meeting plans for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 Cub Scouting years are now available at <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/CubScouts/Leaders/DenLeaderResources/DenandPackMeetingResourceGuide/PackMeetingPlans.aspx>
- From the Cubmaster's Minute to resource lists, you'll find everything you need to lead fun and engaging pack meetings.

Den and Pack Leader Resources

Substantial Revisions

- *Leader Book*
Key resource to operate a Cub Scouting pack
- *Ceremonies Book*
Additional ceremonies for den and pack meetings

Terminology Revisions

- *Leader How-to Book*
Additional program resources to supplement den and pack program
The *How-to Book* now reflects the terminology used with the new Cub Scout adventures
- *BALOO*
BALOO continues to serve as the required training to lead pack camping; The new training syllabus now reflects the terminology used with the new Cub Scout adventures



Training Resources

In person leader-specific training has been updated to support the new program materials; Each course is available at <http://www.scouting.org/Training/Adult.aspx>

Den Leader Position-Specific Training

This course is intended to provide Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos den leaders with the information and tools they need to conduct successful den meetings. Den leaders who complete the Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos training, along with Youth Protection Training, are considered "trained" for their position.

Cubmaster and Assistant Cubmaster Position-Specific Training

This course is intended to provide Cubmasters with the information and tools they need to successfully lead a pack. Cubmasters and assistants who complete this training and Youth Protection Training are considered "trained" for both positions.

Pack Committee Challenge - Pack Committee Position-Specific Training

The Pack Committee Challenge is designed for pack committees, and is the course (along with Youth Protection Training) pack committee members need to complete to be considered "trained."

Online training

- New training materials are being readied for release to provide a completely new training program. Content is structured in smaller pieces to allow leaders to take the training when time is available. It will make training accessible when they want it, and how they want it.
- Training is also organized based on the leader's needs – in categories such as "Before Your First Meeting," "First 30 Days," "First 90 Days," and "Trained."
- The training will be available this Fall through my.scouting.org.

Learning Library

In addition to formalized training, a new on-demand learning resource will launch this Fall to assist leaders in delivering fun and engaging meetings.

From den meeting plans, to ideas on executing the new adventure requirements, the "Learning Library" will be a resource that leaders and parents alike can access to find information about the Cub Scouting program. Launching this Fall at www.cubscouts.org

Using the New Program

Focus on fidelity. Use the materials to support and deliver the program as designed.

All materials were designed to help leaders deliver a program that is more fun for boys and simpler for leaders to implement.

Use the materials as designed to support a great program to see enhanced retention for both boys and leaders.

For ongoing updates, visit <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/programupdates.aspx> for regular program updates and links to program materials and training opportunities.



New Cub Scout Leader Online Training Available at My.Scouting.org

Kick off a new year of Cub Scouting with the training you need to be a successful pack or den leader. The BSA's Scouting U team has released new Cub Scout leader online training in the redesigned LearnCenter available at my.scouting.org.

Now at my.scouting.org, leaders can get trained for their volunteer role without leaving the couch. Complete the courses at your own pace from a home computer or tablet.

The experts at Scouting U found that today's adult learner prefers to consume smaller chunks of knowledge versus an all-day class, says Steve Yackel, team leader of Instructional Design at Scouting U. Adults also retain more knowledge, he says, if they are given the chance to put their newfound skills into action.

In the LearnCenter, leaders watch a series of eight- to 10-minute interactive videos in three sections: Before the First Meeting, Within 30 Days, and Position Trained. The lessons are broken into three sections to allow leaders time to put their newfound knowledge into action

(Of course, some will decide to complete all training sessions at once, which is the beauty of online training: It's flexible and adaptable to your schedule and preferences.)

We delve into the details of the LearnCenter's exciting new features developed by the Scouting U team in the September-October edition of *Scouting* magazine. Plus, keep your eyes out for updated Venturing leader training to be released in the LearnCenter by the end of this year and updated Boy Scouting training coming next spring.

And remember, face-to-face training is still available for those who prefer this style of learning. Check with your district training chair for the next available course.

Need help navigating the LearnCenter? Check out one of the instructional videos. See *"Bryan on Scouting," September 8, 2015, to view these videos.*

New Cub Scouting Web Site CubScouts.org New CubScouts.org is live and full of helpful resources

There's big news for Cub Scouts — and future Cub Scouts — and everyone who works to ensure these children have a memorable and meaningful Scouting experience. That's because this week we launched CubScouts.org, a new website that houses all of the resources needed to deliver a quality Scouting program that Cub Scouts and their parents will enjoy.

The introduction of this site helps us achieve an important part of our growth strategy for the Boy Scouts of America — building more adventures into our Cub Scouts program. We have been refocusing on our unit leaders to ensure they have the tools, training, and support needed to deliver the kind of life-changing experiences Scouting is capable of providing. We want to give younger kids what they want for their first Scouting adventures. Overall, we want them to have fun!

Resources on CubScouts.org are organ-ized by leadership role. Whether you are a parent, committee chair, charter organization representative, Cubmaster, or den leader, you can easily find the materials you need for planning and organizing strong den meetings and outings.

That's integral to our ability to recruit strong leaders and sustain a healthy, growing organization. Having a one-stop shop for questions about kids with special needs, advancement requirements, fun activities and other topics gives new leaders a fast start and helps keep them confident and organized. Armed with important knowledge on these and other topics, leaders will be equipped to deliver fun meetings and new adventures that keep our Cub Scouts coming back for more and energized to join Boy Scouts someday.

Right now, you can tap into the "Learning Library" at CubScouts.org to learn the basics of Cub Scouting, including guides for positive youth development and strengthening membership. Our official Cub Scout blog, "Cub Hub," is home to many stories on how Cub Scouts make a difference for young boys and their communities.

I encourage you to check out CubScouts.org and look for opportunities to apply the resources housed there to your Cub Scouting program. If you have any questions or comments, send them to info@cubscouts.org. Stay tuned for more tools and resources coming soon.

Thanks,

Wayne Brock
Chief Scout Executive
ScoutingWire.org
July 31, 2015

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.

Scout PodCasts for November

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 November 2015 are now available. Archived previous PodCasts are also available at the same site.

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.



CubCast for November



Duty to God and Cub Scouts

The Scout Oath begins with Duty to God. The Scout Law ends with reverence. So it should be no surprise that Duty to God is such an integral part of Scouting. But what may be an eyebrow raiser is that the Duty to God element of the Cub Scouting program has been updated. Why change it? Fifteen-year Cub Scout volunteer, Kee Ostler tells us it's, "like tending a garden." Find out what that means by clicking the Download button.



Scout Safety

Whether you're new to Scouting or have been with us for a while, you're probably – and hopefully – very familiar with the Guide to Safe Scouting and the BSA's rules and regulations regarding safety. You can tell we take safety very seriously. Here to explain the method to the madness of these regulations is our very own Richard Bourlon, team lead of Health and Safety. Let's find out together.

New Boy Scout Requirements

Several new files have been posted in the Boy Scout section of www.scouting.org/programupdates/2015andbeyond.

Some of the files are

- Notes on Transitioning to the New Requirements in 2016
- 2016 Boy Scout requirements--parallel comparison (all of the new requirements are here)
- *Program Features for Troops, Teams, and Crews*
- *Troop Leader Guidebook*, Volume 1 (replacement for the *Scoutmaster Handbook*)
- *Guide to Advancement--New Edition Now Available*
- *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook*
- New! Interactive Digital Merit Badge Pamphlets
- Plus several other resources

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.

Abilities Digest Published Subscribe Now!

The National Disabilities Awareness Committee has published the first edition of *Abilities Digest* to spread the word about Scouting for youth who have disabilities. On a quarterly basis this newsletter will provide advice, program updates, resources for parents and leaders, success stories, training pointers, and from time to time, surveys to find best practices and to determine gaps in information its readers are seeking.

Anyone wishing to subscribe to *Abilities Digest* should send a message to disabilities.awareness@scouting.org. Place "Subscribe" in the subject line, and include your name and council in the body of the message.

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.

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>.

Jamboree Staff: Better Than a Week at Work

Scouting magazine recently published a list of 10 reasons why a week at Scout camp beats a week at the office. Since the list doesn't mention bosses, staff meetings, office politics, or that annoying coworker in the next cubicle, it's safe to assume the editors didn't have room for the entire list.

If spending a week at summer camp has so many benefits, imagine spending a week, or even two, at the 2017 National Scout Jamboree. That's something many Scouting alumni are planning to do.

Although the event is more than two years away, registration is already open for staff. You could work directly with Scouts in a program area such as climbing or shooting sports, work with families and VIPs in Visitor Services, or work behind the scenes in logistics, the staff dining hall, and other areas. In especially high demand are staffers with specific training and skills, such as doctors, lifeguards, and shooting-sports instructors.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Have a current BSA membership
- Have completed required Youth Protection Training within one year of the last day of the jamboree
- Be available to arrive at the jamboree site up to one week before the jamboree, as stipulated by their respective area lead, to receive training and assist in final preparations for participant arrival
- Be at least 16 years of age by the first day of the jamboree
- Submit all registration fees per the published payment schedule
- Complete any jamboree-specific training as directed by their respective area lead
- Submit an Annual Health and Medical Record as instructed by the required deadline
- Meet the medical and body mass index (BMI) requirements established for the jamboree
- Agree to abide by the jamboree staff code of conduct

Staff members can stay for the whole jamboree (July 15-29) or choose one week (either July 15-22 or July 22-29). Costs, deadlines, and other details are available at www.summitbsa.org/events/jamboree/volunteers.

This will be the second jamboree held at the 10,600-acre Summit Bechtel Reserve near Beckley, W.Va. (www.summitbsa.org/). Opened in 2013, the facility features world-class high-adventure facilities for mountain biking, shooting sports, zip-lining, rock climbing, and more. Scouts can also go whitewater rafting on the adjacent New River, one of America's top adventure-sports destinations.



2017 National Jamboree July 19 - 28, 2017

Blackhawk Area Council is now taking applications to be part of the contingent for this Unforgettable Breathtaking Adventure!

Blackhawk Area Council is taking applications from any Boy Scout who will be 12 years of age or officially registered Venturing Crew member by the opening day of the Jamboree.

A Scout usually has only one chance to go to the National Jamboree, so don't miss your chance! Send in your information below to "Live Scouting's Adventure"!

Limited spots are available!

Selection is based on receipt date of application and reservation fee!

If you have any questions, please contact the Jamboree Committee Chairman Blair Piotrowski at blair@panatek.com

The price is only \$1695 for this 12-day once-in-a-life adventure!

2017 National Scout Jamboree Registration Form

Name _____

Unit _____

Phone _____

Email _____

To reserve your spot, mail check with registration form for \$100 to Blackhawk Area Council/Jamboree, 2820 McFarland Road, Rockford IL 61107

Blackhawk Area Council Is Looking for a Few Great Leaders!

The Blackhawk Area Council will be sending two Boy Scout Troops and two Venturing Patrols to the 2017 National Scout Jamboree at The Summit Bechtel Reserve located near Glen Jean, West Virginia July 19 to 28, 2017. With travel time the trip will run from July 18-29, 2017.

The Boy Scout Troops will each be configured as a traditional Jamboree Troop, with four patrols of eight Scouts each, and four youth leaders. In addition we will be sending a couple Venturing patrols to the Jamboree. The Venturing patrol will consist of nine Venturing crew members and one Venturing adult leader. Once we reach the Jamboree, the Scout troop will camp and function as a regular troop, while the Venturing patrols will be combined with other Venturing patrols from other councils to form a full Venturing crew.

We will be selecting by in interview process, six adult leaders and two junior leaders to attend with the Jamboree troops, as well as adult leaders for the Venturing patrols.

If you are interested in applying for one of these positions, please complete the online application at <http://goo.gl/b2dBMt>. Interviews will be scheduled and conducted in late December.

Application deadline is December 15, 2015.

The qualifications for the leadership positions are as follows:

Scoutmaster – Be currently serving as a Scoutmaster in our council. These individuals will serve as the contingent coordinators on the trip. They will assist with the council contingent recruiting efforts. They will also work closely with council professional and volunteer leadership in areas of planning, budgeting, and organizational management. Wood Badge training is highly recommended for these individuals.

1st and 2nd Assistant Scoutmasters - Be currently serving in any troop, crew, or Varsity team adult leadership position. These leaders will assist the Scoutmasters in council recruiting efforts. In addition, we are looking for leaders with skills that include maintaining forms and records, helping with logistics for our troop meetings and campouts prior to Jamboree, and maintaining electronic communications within our troop such as creating a Facebook page or Yahoo group. Wood Badge training is highly recommended for these individuals.

3rd Assistant Scoutmaster - Must be at least 18 years of age by the first day of the Jamboree (July 19, 2017) but not yet 24 years of age by the last day of the Jamboree (July 28, 2017). This leader will assist the Scoutmaster in council recruiting efforts. In addition, we are looking for leaders with team building skills, such as those taught at NYLT.

Venturing Leader - Must have completed Venturing Leader Specific training. Be actively serving as a crew Advisor or Associate Advisor. These leaders will assist the Scoutmasters in council recruiting efforts. In addition, we are looking for leaders with skills that include those listed above for Assistant Scoutmasters. Wood Badge training is highly recommended for these individuals.

There are other national staff opportunities to serve at the Jamboree if you are not selected as a Blackhawk Area Council leader. Please see www.summit.scouting.org for information and application.

Are You Ready to Join the Pirates of the Carabiner?



The Blackhawk Area Council will be sending two Boy Scout troops and two Venturing patrols to the 2017 National Scout Jamboree at The Summit Bechtel Reserve located near Glen Jean, West Virginia July 19 to 28, 2017. With travel time the trip will run from July 18-29, 2017.

Each Jamboree troop will be composed of 36 Scouts and four adult leaders from across Blackhawk Area Council.

The two Venturing patrols will be composed of nine Venturers and one adult leader from across the Blackhawk Area Council.

We are anticipating the cost for the Jamboree to be \$1,695. This will include the Jamboree fee, motor coach transportation to/from the Summit, meals, patches, t-shirts, insignia, pre-Jamboree shakedown activities, and much, much more.

Scouts will be added to the troops in a first-come, first-served fashion. We do anticipate that we will fill up the two buses, so please register early!

Sign up today at: <http://goo.gl/bZvVTX>.

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be a part of the 2017 BSA National Jamboree!

For questions or more information, please contact Blair Piotrowski at blair@panatek.com or 847-712-0867.

STAFF AND ATTENDEE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Experience the best of Scouting in one place. From stadium shows to merit badges, patch trading to adventure sports, you'll want to be at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in 2017.

SIGN UP TODAY ▶

For more information, visit

BSAJAMBOREE.ORG ▶





Choose your game:
 ___ October 17th, 2015
 ___ March 19th, 2016
 Can't make Scout Night?
 Ask about other group opportunities!

___ Lower Level Tickets @ \$20 = ___
 ___ Upper Level Tickets @ \$15 = ___
 ___ Hot Dog/Soda Vouchers @ \$6 = ___

Handling Fee \$3

Total Amount Enclosed = ___

of Scout Night Patches ___
Patches are exclusive to Scout Night

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

Council _____
 Group Name _____
 Contact _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____
 CC# _____
 Exp _____ CC2 _____

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Rockford, IL 61101
 MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ROCKFORD ICEHOGS

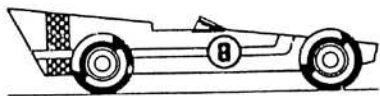
Order by fax:
 (815) 380-6432

**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. Scout night offer not available through the BMO
 Harris Bank Center box office. ***Units attending both
 Scout Nights will receive t-shirts equal to the lesser
 number of tickets purchased for those two games.
 Only orders received from the same individual for the
 same scout unit will qualify to receive free t-shirts.**

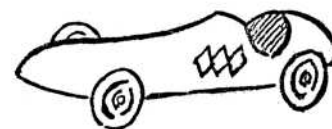
Questions?
 Call Ryan at (815)847-6383
 or email at woodrowr@icehogs.com



IT ALL STARTS HERE



Blackhawk Area Council Pinewood Derby April 19-10, 2016



Welcome to the 41st 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 2016 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.

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.

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.**

Special Note

If you do not receive an acknowledgment of your pack entry within two weeks after sending in your entry form and \$40.00 fee, please call the Blackhawk Area Council Service Center at 815-397-0210.

A fee of \$80.00 will be charged for all entries received after the entry deadline (March 14, 2016).

If your pack schedules its derby just before or after the entry deadline and you would like to have your Scouts race, we suggest filing a blank entry form with all information except for the names. The winners can be phoned in to the pinewood derby chairman later and the pack saves on the late entry fee.

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.

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 racing 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.

Pack Volunteer(s)

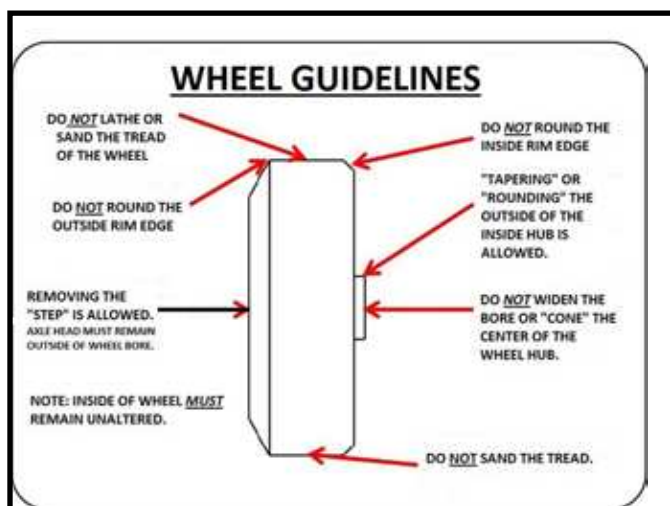
The Council Pinewood Derby Committee is asking each pack to submit the name of a person who would be willing to volunteer their time to help at the Council Derby. Help is needed for judging, registration and race starters. Total time commitment is approximately three hours.

Please provide the name and phone number on your pack's entry form in the space provided. A representative from your district will contact this person to explain what's involved and the specific time schedule. This person's time will be used during the racing session when your district races. Over the course of the racing weekend, 150 volunteers are needed to run this event. This is why one person from each pack will help in the smooth running of this event.

**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

- 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 12, 2015.
- 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:** The only wheels allowed are those from Official Pinewood Derby Car Kits #17006 or #17000 or Official Pinewood Derby Wheels and Axles #17553 thru #17557 (black and colored wheels). Car kits, including wheels and axles from any other source are not allowed. Wheels must be original width, thickness and height and the tread surface must remain flat. Tapering or coning of the outside surface of the inner wheel hub (the inside surface nearest to the car) is allowed. **Wheels may not be shaved.**
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. No other modifications to the wheels are allowed. Three wheels must touch the track surface. The remaining wheel must be within 1/16th of an inch or less of the track surface.
- Axles:** The only axles allowed are those axles from Official Pinewood Derby Car Kits #17006 or #17000 or Official Pinewood Derby Wheels and Axles #17553 through #17557 (black and colored wheels). 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.



Any Questions?

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

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.

Uniforms

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

Entry Forms

**ENTRY FORMS MUST BE AT THE
COUNCIL SERVICE CENTER BY
MARCH 14, 2016**

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

1. Complete the 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 10, 2016. This will allow time for the entry to be delivered by March 14th.

After April 1, 2016, 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.

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.

**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.**

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 14) 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, 2016).
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!

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 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	_____	_____

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 COMFORMANCE 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 14, 2016) or ___ \$80.00 (after March 14, 2016)
- Pack Entry Fee Enclosed: ___ \$40.00 (before March 14, 2016) or ___ \$80.00 (after March 14, 2016)

Pack Volunteer (to help at the council derby) Name _____ Phone # _____
See section explaining "Pack volunteer(s)"

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.

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.

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.



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 .

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

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 # _____

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.



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 the 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.

The Blackhawk
COURIER



www.BlackhawkScouting.org



www.Scouting.org/Alumni

Don't be shy - Tell Mary Anne EVERYTHING!

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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!

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

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.

What Is Friends of Scouting?

Friends of Scouting is your council's annual giving campaign. In most councils, Friends of Scouting (or FOS) represents the council's largest income source.

It's that time of the year when you'll start hearing the phrase "Friends of Scouting" at unit meetings and district roundtables.

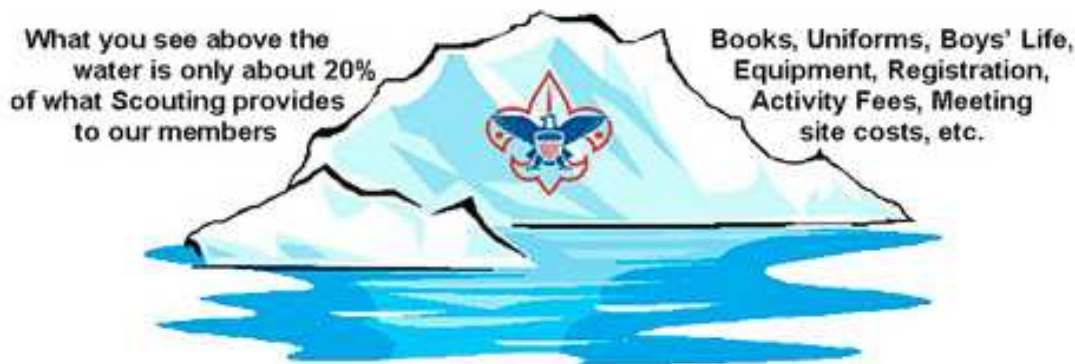
What is Friends of Scouting? What does it mean to be a Friend of Scouting? And why should you consider becoming one?

First, the basics: Friends of Scouting is your council's annual giving campaign. In most councils, Friends of Scouting (or FOS) represents the

council's largest source of income.

In Blackhawk Area Council, the Friends of Scouting campaign begins in January and ends in April. During the campaign, a volunteer will visit your pack meeting or troop court of honor to explain the campaign and make an appeal for your support. You'll be asked to make a tax-deductible pledge to your local council.

The natural next question is: Why should I give money to my local council? Many councils answer this with what's called "The Iceberg Analogy."



The Iceberg Analogy

Scouts and volunteers see only 20 percent of what councils provide to members. There's a whole lot more beneath the surface.

I know this well. When I first became a Boy Scout, I had no idea that there were council professionals working behind the scenes to make the Scouting magic happen. I just assumed those silver-looped Scouters were other volunteers.

As I've met many of these wonderful professionals, I've grown to understand their role. They support you, the volunteer, so you have more time to enjoy the life-changing fun of Scouting.

What do councils provide? In other words: What's beneath the surface?

- Volunteer and staff training
- Insurance coverage to protect volunteers, chartered organizations, staff members and properties
- Support staff for registration, publications and other program support
- Camp promotion for Cub Scout day camps, Boy Scout summer camps, high-adventure bases and more
- Camp rangers to keep the council camps up-to-date and ready for Scouts and families.
- Camp equipment, like tents, cooking equipment, camp vehicles, building repairs, canoes, equipment replacement and repair, and general upkeep of council camps.
- Recognitions for leaders who complete training, volunteer for special projects and help in many Scouting roles.
- Professional staff to work with volunteers to organize new units, manage fundraising programs, conduct training, assist membership recruitment, provide counsel and direct support for district, camps, and programs

- Administrative needs, including postage, computers and links to the National BSA computer system, copy machines, folding machines and a printing shop.
- Service centers to provide additional support to volunteers.
- Audio-visual supplies used in training, at camps and in volunteer meetings.
- Postage to mail materials to leaders, parents and youth members.
- A council website to keep you informed.
- Reference publications and resources, including program planning kits and to camping cookbooks.
- Camp scholarships, uniforms and registration fees for disadvantaged young people.

As you can see, there's more happening at your council than the average volunteer sees. And it can't happen without the support of volunteers like you.

Employee match programs

Some companies, possibly including the one for which you work, will match their employees' charitable contributions. Be sure to see whether your workplace has such a program. If so, you'll double your impact.

Support Friends of Scouting

Watch future *Blackhawk Courier* newsletters, website or Facebook page to learn more about our Friends of Scouting campaign. A fellow volunteer should be visiting you soon with more info.

Thanks for making a difference.

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.

Helpful Links

Here are some links to the most current materials of interest for Scouters who are involved in the administration of advancement. These and many more resources are available via the Advancement Resources page at www.scouting.org/advancement.

Advancement Educational Presentations:

- Cub Scout Advancement: Delivering Adventure
- Getting the Most From Internet Advancement
- The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling (English and Spanish)
- The Eagle Scout Service Project Coach (English and Spanish)
- Effective Troop Advancement (English and Spanish)
- Including Scouts With Disabilities
- Videocasts on Guide to Advancement, selected topics
 - Introduction to the Guide to Advancement
 - Judgment Calls
 - Boards of Review
 - Boards of Review Under Disputed Circumstances
 - Boards of Review Appeals
 - The Eagle Scout Application Process
 - Eagle Scout Boards of Review
- Videos
 - On Increasing Advancement
 - Why Advancement?
 - Guardian of the Gate

Guide to Advancement 2015

Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook

Navigating the Eagle Scout Service Project: Information for Project Beneficiaries

Eagle Scout Service Project Coach Application NEW!

Eagle Scout Rank Application

Merit Badge Counselor Information

Reporting Merit Badge Concerns

Venturing Summit Award Service Project Workbook

Venturing Board of Review Guide

Individual Scout Achievement Plan

Lone Scout Friend and Counselor Guidebook

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.

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.



BURPEE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Burpee Museum Scout Programs

Webelos Scouts

Naturalist Activity Badge
December 12, 10:00 to noon – \$10

Geologist Activity Badge
December 12, 10:00 to noon – \$10

“Into the Wild” Adventure
February 13, 1:30 to 3:30 – \$10
April 30, 2:30-4:30 – \$10

“Earth Rocks!” Adventure
March 19, 10:00 to noon – \$10
April 16, 1:30 to 3:30 – \$10

“Into the Woods” Adventure
April 16, 10 to noon – \$10
May 28, 2:30 to 4:30 – \$10

Boy Scouts

Astronomy
December 4-5, 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 a.m. – \$35
February 26-27, 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 a.m. – \$35

Archaeology
January 9, 10:00 to 3:00 – \$15
May 7, 10:00 to 3:00 – \$15

Mammal Study
March 19, 1:30 to 4:00 – \$10

Boy Scouts (Continued)

Bird Study
May 28, 10:00 to 1:45 – \$12

Insect Study
August 6, 10:00 to 2:00 – \$12

- Pre-registration and prepayment are required. Call 815-965-3433, ext 1018, to register.
- Webelos programs: One adult for every 5 Scouts free, additional adults \$5.00
- Boy Scouts: Scout leaders free, other adults pay Museum Admission
- 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.
- Some Boy Scout and Webelos merit badges require homework ahead of the program in order to fulfill the requirements. These will be sent to you when you register.
- 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.

Burpee Museum, 737 N. Main St, Rockford IL 61103,
815-965-3433, www.burpee.org



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/InternationalSpiritAward

SCOUTStrong Healthy Unit Award Gets Updated

Is snacking smart, drinking right, and moving more a priority in your Scout unit? It should be. And it's time to get the patch to prove it

The patch is for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturers. You can earn it as a den, troop, pack, or crew. To earn this patch, practice three healthy principles during your meetings and/or gatherings, creating a new norm. Just follow the 3-6-9 plan:

- Snack Smart: Eat fruits and vegetables for snacks when snacks are provided at three meetings
- Drink Right: Have water over sugary beverages at six meetings
- Move More: Enjoy 15 minutes of physical activity at nine meetings

For details and individual rank charts, go to www.Scouting.org/SCOUTStrongHealthyUnit ward.



The Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award and Outdoor Ethics 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!

For details and requirements, go to www.Scouting.org/Outdoor Ethics Awards



Visit Veterans Memorial Hall Limited edition Boy Scout patch Is available

Scouts will begin their quest by exploring Veteran's Memorial Hall, discovering the secrets hidden within.

Veterans Memorial Hall was constructed in the Greek revival and classical building style at the request of the citizens of Winnebago County to honor area Veterans.

Today, just as when it was dedicated by President Theodore Roosevelt on June 3, 1903, Veterans Memorial Hall stands to honor all Veterans.

Cost: \$5.00

For more information or to arrange a tour, contact Veterans Memorial Hall at 815-969-1999 or info@veteransmemorialhall.com.



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



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.



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.

The site is currently still using the “old” advancement requirements, but check out some of the projects anyway. Many are applicable to the new Cub Scout adventures. Others are just for fun!

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





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

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.

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.

For more information, go to scouting.org/messengers_of_peace

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.



Annual Co-ed Scout Events

Ages 14+ (some 13+)

Come join us for fun activities for Scouts your own age! See familiar faces! Many units attend most of these events
For Girl Scouts, Mariners, Boy Scouts, Venturers, Sea Scouts, Explorers, etc.
(Great Retention Tools)

2015

December 4-5 – Christmas Tree Ship, Chicago Illinois

Event for Scouts age 13 and older. Help unload Christmas trees from the Freighter Mackinaw onto trailers and trucks to be delivered to halfway houses, orphanages, and other need establishments in the Chicagoland area. Music, snacks, and overnight in the Columbia Yacht Club on Friday, Saturday breakfast and lunch provided.

Contact volunteer@christmasship.org for off-loading details later for Friday overnight and social.

December 18-20 – Eagle Cave, Blue River, Wisconsin

A particular weekend we try to get older units to reserve their spot for cave exploring, hiking, special contests, night hike, sledding, etc. Call by summer's end to get a reservation. Eagle Cave Resort, 608-537-2988.

2016

January 16 – Snowstorm, Roscoe, Illinois, Stateline area – Kinnikinnick Middle School, ages 13+

One-day competition, including snow shoeing, tug-of-war, orienteering, drilling, first aid, obstacle course, snow sculpting, knots, sled pull, etc., plus dinner and a dance. Optional overnight on Saturday for those far away. Always held Saturday before observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

Contact Louise Glon, antiquerocks@yahoo.com, 815-988-9515

For more information: <http://www.angelfire.com/il3/snowstorm/index.html>

February early TBD – Winter Amidships (WAM), Fond du Lac Wisconsin

One-day competition running for more than 30 years, including knots, tug-of-war, code flags, first aid, snow bowling, compass, obstacle course, surprises, etc., plus dinner and a dance.

Contact Ann Gratton at 920-231-3015.

Sign-up is online only. More information <http://www.baylakesbsa.org>

February TBD Annual Arctic Blast – Wilmot Ski Resort, Wisconsin

Late afternoon/evening of skiing, snowboarding for Venturers, Explorers, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and youth groups ages 13 and older.

Contact: VenturingCrew275@att.net Kathy at 847-546-1782.

April (middle) TBD – 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: Bob Muraski at Ship508@comcast.net

May (usually first weekend TBD) – Glacial Trails Backpacking – Dundee Wisconsin

Weekend of backpacking and camping for all levels of experience. A great training hike for longer treks!

More information <http://www.badgertrails.org>

Contact info@badgertrails.org

June 4 – Scout Fishing Derby, Rockton Illinois.

Illinois free fishing weekend – adults fish for free! Fish along the Rock River Race. All age divisions for both BSA & GSUSA. \$3. Fee includes patch, chance at trophies, and attendance prizes, and fun fishing! 22 years at the same place.

Contact Louise Glon, antiquerocks@yahoo.com. 815-988-9515

June (Late) TBD – Blackhawk Area Regatta, Rockford Illinois. Rock Cut State Park, Olson Lake

One-day competition running for more than 50 years. Includes 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.net

July 15-17 – Bay Jammer – Marinette, Wisconsin and Menominee Michigan

Longest running competition 68 years! Events include lip sync contest on Friday; swimming, boating, compass, log rolling, log sawing, drilling, knots, triathlon, etc. on Saturday plus dinner and semi-formal dance; tug-of-war and volleyball on Sunday.

More information <http://www.bayjammer.htmlplanet.com>. Sign up is online only.

August 5-7 – Makahiki, Warsaw, Indiana

Hawaiian themed weekend competition running for more than 40 years. Includes competitions; knots, volleyball, tug-of-war, boating, log sawing, obstacle course, drilling, canoe swamp, etc. plus Hawaiian dress parade, luau, and dance on Saturday; swimming on Sunday.

More information <http://www.awac.org>. Sign up is online only

When we receive the final dates for the 2016 events marked TBD, we will email this flier again.

If you have any problems reaching any of these sites or have an older Scout event to add, please contact Louise Glon for information at antiquerocks@yahoo.com or 815-988-9515.



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



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.



Upcoming Training

The chart below lists known upcoming training dates for upcoming months. Details such as time and location can be found in your district’s section of this newspaper and on the district Web sites. If the dates of a training course in your district don’t fit your schedule, check out the dates in another district. The important thing is to take training as soon as possible in order to give your Scouts the best program possible. Note that some dates may be different from those in the printed council calendar.

Some training sessions are also available online through MyScouting.org.

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.

Consult the 2015-2016 Council Calendar and future *Couriers* for upcoming training courses.

Council	
Sycamore	
Wanchanagi	
White Eagle	Attend roundtable and check district Web site for listing
Wetassa	Attend roundtable and check district Web site for listing
Arrowhead	





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.





Okpik Cold Weather camping

Session 1 – November 21, 2015

Session 2 – December 12, 2015

Session 3 – January 16, 2016

Practical Weekend – January 30-31, 2016

There will be patrol meetings scheduled during this time. Dates and locations will be determined by your patrol members.

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to help Scouting units extend their camping season to all 12 months of the year. It is expected that the participants of this course will go back to their units and share the knowledge and skills learned in this course.

**"Non Semper Erit Aestas"
"It Will Not Always Be Summer"**

Our Train the Trainer program will provide you with the knowledge and materials to conduct winter camping training within your units. This program covers the skills and techniques needed to ensure a successful, fun, and safe cold weather camping experience. These include physical preparation, clothing, food and water, sanitation, first aid and emergency procedures, shelter building, traveling in snow, and making equipment.

Cold weather camping mistakes can be deadly. The skills learned in the Okpik program will make cold weather camping an enjoyable, safe Scouting experience. Because of this the course is limited to adults and experienced youth only, at least 14 years old, approved by their unit leader and the course director.

Attendance at all three classroom sessions and the practical weekend campout are required to complete the course.

Questions? Please contact Phil Reece with any questions at pjreece@comcast.net or my cell phone 815-742-5870.

Course Fees

Applications are accepted on a first come-first serve basis determined by when the deposit is received at council service center.

- Deposit of \$20 is due by Friday, October 16, 2015, to guarantee your position.
- Payment in full of \$100 is due by Friday, November 13, 2015.

The deposit and payment are non-refundable. However it may be used another year or transferred to another participant with your approval.

Limited scholarships are available. Contact the course director for more information.

Each participant may incur additional cost for personal gear. Money will be given to each patrol for food during the practical weekend.

You will be instructed according to the program syllabus and provided the Okpik Cold Weather Camping book. This will give you all the material needed to "Bring It Back" to your unit.

Upon course completion you will receive an Okpik neckerchief, Okpik woggle, Okpik participant cubes, and an Okpik participant patch.

More importantly you will receive the knowledge and understanding of how to thrive in the fourth season of camping, and the passion to pay it forward.

Participant Requirements

- Must be able to operate in a patrol environment.
- Must be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America. This includes Youth Protection training that is current through the end of the course.
- Must have completed the basic training courses for your unit position.
- Must meet the physical requirements contained in the Annual Health & Medical Record form physical in a backcountry environment. Parts A, B, and C must be handed in when the full payment is due.
- Youth, 14 – 18, must have their unit leader's permission. The unit leader must take into account the Scouts' physical capabilities for high adventure activities as well as their maturity. Having attended National Youth Leadership Training is encouraged for all youth.
- Must have fun.

Okpik Registration

Name: _____

District: _____

Unit Type: (Circle one) Pack / Troop / Crew

Unit Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

(This will be the primary form of contact)

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Unit Leader Signature: _____

Youth (14-18) must have their unit leader's permission to participate and be confirmed by the course director.

Wood Badge C7-660-16 August 19-21 and September 23-25, 2016



The Blackhawk Area Council is pleased to announce that Blair Piotrowski has been chosen to be the course director for the council's Wood Badge course in 2016. Blair has served on numerous Wood Badge courses and for many years as district and council trainer.

We are now accepting registrations for Wood Badge Course C7-660-16. Course size is 48 participants. If you are interested in attending, please submit your registration form 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, problem solving 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.

The second part of the course is the application phase. This is where you will put those new leadership skills into action. This leadership application plan 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.

When:

- 7:45 a.m. Friday, August 19, until 5:00 p.m. Sunday, August 23
- 7:45 a.m. Friday, September 23, until 5:00p.m. Sunday, September 25
- Two mid-course patrol meetings
- Attendance is required at all sessions

Where:

Camp Lowden, Oregon. Illinois

Cost:

The cost for Wood Badge C7-660-16 is \$245 if paid in full by May 31, 2016. After that date the cost is \$275. The fee includes all meals, program materials, recognition items, and insurance. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is required with submission of the application.

Questions? Need More Information?

Course Director: Blair Piotrowski: 847-712-0867 or blair@panatek.com
Staff Advisor: Emily Rinaldi: 815-397-0210 or emily.rinaldi@scouting.org

Applications are available at the council service center in Rockford, the Sycamore District Field Office in Crystal Lake, roundtables, the council Web site, and at C7-660-16.



Wood Badge C7-660-16

If you would like additional information about this mountaintop training experience, contact Course Director Blair Piotrowski at 847-712-0867 or blair@panatek.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 \$50.00*

____ Payment in Full \$245

Make check payable to: Blackhawk Area Council

Mail to Wood Badge C7-660-16, 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.**



Derek Coleman, Troop 181 in Wanchanagi, receiving his Wood Badge beads at the annual Wood Badge Dinner at the Boeger Leadership lodge. With Derek is his son Blake and his wife Bridget. Congratulations!



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 2016, two courses will be held

- June 12-17 – Camp Lowden, near Oregon, Illinois
- July 31-August 5 – Canyon Camp, near Stockton, Illinois

Participation requirements:

- Current BSA registration
- Boy Scouts must be 13 years or older and be a minimum of First Class rank.
- Have 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).
- Unit leader recommendation.
- Completed medical form with no restrictions that would prohibit participation.

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, 2016. After May 1, the course fee is \$210.00. A \$50.00 non-refundable deposit will hold your space. A payment of the remainder is due by May 1, 2016, for the discounted rate of \$180. Fee includes two T-shirts, hat, meals, and course materials.

Contacts:

- Lowden Course Director: Tom Llotito, 224-829-6676 or bsa.lotito@gmail.com
- Canyon Course Director: Ida Bolen, 815-289-0661 or i.bolen@hotmail.com
- Emily Renaldi, Staff Advisor – 815-397-0210

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) Registration Form



NYLT Registration

Name: _____

District: _____

Unit: _____ Birth Date: _____ M / F

Unit Position: _____ Shirt Size _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Parent Email: _____

(We correspond by email.)

Phone: Home _____

Cellular: _____

Unit Leader Signature and Phone Number: _____

Enclosed is my (select one):

Non-refundable Deposit \$50*

Payment in Full, \$180 (\$210 after May 1, 2016 deadline)

For Course (select one):

Camp Lowden, June 12-17

Canyon Camp, August July 331 - August 5

Payable to Blackhawk Area Council. Mail to NYLT 2016, 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 2016. The courses are scheduled for April 30 - May 1, and May 7 - 8. Each course is separate and participants must complete the course that they register for.

Due to demand for training and limited class size, 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 2-day 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 April 15, 2016. Please do not hesitate in getting your registration and fee in to confirm your spot in your selected course.

If you have any questions email Rodney Mathias at rmteach2@yahoo.com or call 815-239-2354.



The Trainer's EDGE

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.

Save the date – March 5, 2016.

Registration forms coming soon to the council Web site and *Courier*.

Wilderness First Aid Registration

Circle Session Choice

April 30 - May 1, 2016

May 7 - May 8, 2016

Name _____

Adult _____ Youth _____

Address: _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone:

Daytime _____

Evening _____

Troop/Crew # _____

Email _____

Course fee is \$110 per participant

Camping: Friday _____ Saturday _____

Mail registration form and fee payable to Rodney Mathias by April 15, 2016, to Rodney Mathias, Box 159, Pecatonica IL 61063

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.

Blackhawk Area Council, BSA

Blackhawk Area Council, BSA



Risk Management Guide for Units

The purpose of this guide is to prepare adult leaders to conduct Scouting activities in a safe and prudent manner. Policies and guidelines have been established because of the need to protect members from risk and hazards that have been identified through one hundred plus years of Scouting experience. This guide provides adult leaders with information on:

- **Council Emergency Procedures**
- **Youth Protection Procedures**
- **Insurance Coverage**
- **Tour Plans / Tour Planning Worksheet**
- **BSA Rules and Regulations**
- **BSA Training Courses for Health & Safety**

Every registered adult leader should have a copy of this important council resource.

In the case of a reported situation, it is the responsibility of the person in charge of the event / function / trip to contact one of the following council officers:

Council Scout Executive	Don Kinney	O: 815-397-0210 C: 618-593-7610
Council Program Director	Emily Rinaldi	O: 815-397-0210 C: 847-417-9426

Note: Changes in this document are bold, italicized, and underlined.

Changes: pages: 1, 3, 6, 9

New: pages: 4, 7, 8.

COUNCIL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

All youth activities have some potential for accidents to occur. If an accident or serious injury occurs, it is important that the Blackhawk Area Council be prepared to respond in an appropriate manner. The following procedures have been established to guide volunteers and staff personnel as they relate to serious accidents, injuries, or illness.

1. Proper planning to avoid possible injuries and for adequate emergency response is the responsibility of all Scout leaders. In addition, the observance of all laws that might apply to a Scouting event is necessary, for example, speed limits, wearing of seat belts, tire maintenance, and reading and following safety precautions, etc.
2. In an event where an individual is injured or serious illness occurs, proper and adequate care, treatment, and transportation of the individual is of primary importance. Careless handling of a victim following an accident can make the injuries worse.
3. The next responsibility is to notify the proper Scouting authorities. It is this council's policy that the following be reported to the council Scout executive or the designee as soon as possible:
 - ❖ All deaths or serious injuries;
 - ❖ Injury to a Scout or adult on a Scout function (on or off Scout property) in which medical treatment, other than at-scene first aid, is performed;
 - ❖ Any situation occurring in connection with a Scout function (whether on or off Scout property) in which a Scout or adult is transported to a hospital, whether or not the Scout/adult is admitted.

Reporting Procedure: In the case of a reporting situation, it is the responsibility of the person in charge of the event/function/trip to contact one of the council officials as listed on the cover of this guidebook.

4. The unit leader in charge must contact the family, obtain medical assistance, and provide transportation. Arrangements will be made to secure personal equipment for safe delivery to the home, if requested.
5. The council official handles procedures regarding insurance, media relations, and ensures that national and local Scout policies are met.

It is the hope of the council that thorough pre-trip planning, emphasizing safety, is a part of every Scouting activity to avoid accidents and injury. It is the responsibility of all BSA leaders to be concerned for the injured person(s) and their family.

PRESS RELATIONS

In responding to the news media, the following principles should be observed:

1. It is the council's policy to work with the media to provide factual, accurate, and timely information. The council will not adopt a "no comment" attitude.
2. Only one council spokesperson will be selected to be the news source, usually the council Scout Executive. Leaders/adults should refer all media inquires to the council news source and should give accurate directions for locating the council news source.
3. The council spokesperson will note which representatives of the media were involved. If possible, a press release or media advisory will be prepared as soon as possible so that all media representatives are given the same information.

YOUTH PROTECTIONS PROCEDURES

The Blackhawk Area Council feels **EDUCATION IS KEY** to creating additional protection and security for our Scouts. Through adult leader Youth Protection Training, we hope to bring awareness to all adults who work with youth on the following:

- ❖ **Recognizing** situations that place a child at-risk of abuse, how child abusers operate, and how to deter a child abuser from joining the Boy Scouts of America.
- ❖ **React or Respond** to a child who has been abused, and the type of abuse they have fallen victim to.
- ❖ **Report** a suspected case of abuse within Scouting procedure and State Law.

As a volunteer for the nation's largest youth organization, you should be aware of how to help a child in need, and how to keep child abusers out of the Boy Scouts of America.

The Blackhawk Area Council hopes to educate all adult leaders through Youth Protection Training in order to create a barrier to child abuse and to abusers.

All adults must take Youth Protection Training every two years. Adults will be removed from the unit charter if their Youth Protection Training has expired. No adult application will be accepted without a valid Youth Protection Training Certificate.

It is suggested that units assign responsibility for Youth Protection to an assistant unit leader. The assistant leader selected for this responsibility should make sure that the following conditions are met.

- ❖ Ensure all registered adults receive the current youth protection training.
- ❖ Coordinate the education of parents on the issue of child abuse.
- ❖ Provide Youth Protection Training for all youth using the appropriate materials and videos.

To do all this, the leader must be equipped with the right knowledge and materials. Each district has a Youth Protection Training team ready to provide the resources and support necessary to be successful in your unit.

Reporting Procedures: It is the policy of the Blackhawk Area Council that a suspected or observed case of child abuse or victimization involving a participant in any program, activity, camp or unit of the Boy Scouts of America be immediately reported to the council Scout Executive or first available council official listed on the cover of this guidebook.

Barriers to Abuse within Scouting

The BSA has adopted the following policies to provide additional security for our members. These policies are primarily for the protection of our youth members; however, they also serve to protect our adult leaders from false accusations of abuse. Full descriptions of these barriers are outlined in Youth Protection Training.

- ◆ Two Deep Leadership
- ◆ No One-on-One Contact
- ◆ Respect of Privacy
- ◆ Separate Accommodations
- ◆ Proper Preparation for High Adventure Activities
- ◆ No Secret Organizations
- ◆ Appropriate Attire
- ◆ Constructive Discipline
- ◆ Hazing Prohibited
- ◆ Troop Junior Leader Training

INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR VOLUNTEERS

Listed below is a brief outline of the insurance coverage's provided by Blackhawk Area Council through the support of the Friends of Scouting campaign and activity fees.

COMPREHENSIVE GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

This coverage provides primary general liability coverage for **registered** volunteer Scouters with respect to claims arising out of an official Scouting activity with the exception that the coverage is excess over any insurance that may be available to the volunteer for loss arising from the ownership, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle or watercraft. This insurance is available only while the vehicle or watercraft is in the actual use of a Scouting unit and being used for a Scouting purpose. Coverage is more than \$5 million for bodily injury and property damage.

The insurance provided to **unregistered** Scouting volunteers through the general liability insurance program is excess over any other insurance the volunteer might have to his or her benefit, usually a homeowners, personal liability, or auto liability policy.

The general liability policy does not provide indemnification or defense coverage for those individuals who commit intentional and/or criminal acts. The Boy Scouts of America does not have an insurance policy which provides defense for situations involving allegations of intentional and/or criminal acts.

AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY INSURANCE

All vehicles **MUST** be covered by a liability insurance policy. The amount of this coverage must meet or exceed the insurance requirements of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. It is recommended, however, that coverage limits are at least \$100,000 combined single limit. Any vehicle carrying 10 or more passengers is required to have limits of \$500,000 combined single limit. In case of rented vehicles, coverage limit requirements can be met by combining the limits of personal coverage carried by the driver with

insurance coverage purchased from the rental company. All vehicles used in travel outside the United States must carry a liability insurance policy that complies with or exceeds the requirements of that country.

CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS FOR SCOUTING UNITS

The general liability policy provides primary liability insurance coverage for all chartered organizations on file with the BSA for liability arising out of their chartering a traditional Scouting unit. Automobile and maritime liability coverage is provided on a secondary or excess basis. All vehicles used in Scouting activities must be covered by automobile liability insurance with limits that meet or exceed the requirements of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. All boats/vessels used in Scouting must be insured by the owner for liability exposures. The amount of coverage is determined by the size and usage of the boat. \$1 million is recommended. Chartered organizations do not need a certificate of insurance. The chartered organization endorsement is a part of the insurance policy contract and is enforceable under the policy contract.

ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS COVERAGE

The Blackhawk Area Council provides accident insurance coverage to all units for your youth through the Friends of Scouting campaign.

NOTE: This does not cover adult leaders.

If your unit wants the accident insurance for its adults, the unit will need to purchase the accident insurance from Health Special Risk, Inc. Forms are available at the council office or at www.hsri.com.

TOUR PLANNING WORKSHEET AND TOUR PLAN

PROTECTING YOUR ASSETS

Tour plans have become recognized by national parks, military institutions, and other organizations as proof that a unit activity has been well planned and organized, and is under qualified leadership.

The tour plan formally classifies the outing as an official Scout activity. Insurance coverage only applies to official Scout activities. Filing a tour plan signifies that a unit recognizes that BSA registration policy is being followed and national requirements are being met. Units are aware of safety, insurance and supervision policies of the Boy Scouts of America. Such policies are outlined in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.

Tour plans help the council office to know "what is going on" by providing detailed information regarding unit outings and trips. It reinforces leader requirements, especially in regards to Youth Protection. It provides information to locate a unit if an emergency arises, and lets the council office know of a point of contact when an emergency develops. It also reinforces driver and insurance requirements. In summary, tour plans re-enforce planning, safety, and two-deep leadership.

Failure to file a tour plan does not relieve units or their leadership from abiding by the rules and regulations of the BSA. The council is committed to providing a safe, fun environment for youth to enjoy, and protecting adult leaders from undue risk of litigation. Compliance to these tour plan guidelines ensures that the BSA is fulfilling its obligation to provide for the well being and safety of its membership.

WHEN AND HOW TO FILE A TOUR PLAN

The Tour Planning Worksheet and Tour Plan must be submitted for council review at least 21 days prior to travel. This requirement helps ensure that trips are well planned, and organized. Because of the large number of plans filed daily, late or rush approvals can cause delays.

Unit leaders may file a Tour Plan in the following ways:

1. **Deliver** to the council service center. As staff time allows, approval can be given on the spot, or a copy will be mailed.
2. **Mail** to the council service center. Approved copies will be mailed back to the unit leader.
3. **Email** to the council service center. *Approved copies can be emailed. Please indicate in your email your desire to have copy mailed or emailed. See last page.*

Check for completeness of the form. Incorrect forms delay the approval process. Include the two required signatures – the unit leader and either the committee chair or charter representative must sign **each** tour plan. Each signature attests to the correctness of the information submitted, that registration policies are being followed, and that National safety and insurance requirements are being met.

TOUR PLANNING WORKSHEET AND TOUR PLAN

The Tour Planning Worksheet and Tour Plan must be submitted for council review for the following:

- Trips of 500 miles or more
- Trips outside of Blackhawk Area Council boundaries
- Trips to any National High-Adventure Base, National Scout Jamboree, National Order of the Arrow Conference, or regionally sponsored event
- When conducting the following activities outside of council or district events:
 - Aquatics activities (swimming, boating, floating, scuba, etc)
 - Climbing and rappelling
 - Orientation flights (process the flying plan)
 - Shooting sports
 - Any activities involving motorized vehicles as part of the program (snowmobiles, boating, etc)

Submit the tour plan / tour planning worksheet at least 21 days in advance of the event. The approved tour plan will be returned to the unit after processing.

PERMISSION SLIPS

For all activities, trips & outings, it is highly recommended that each youth provide a signed permission slip from a parent or guardian, authorizing them to participate, and for the leader to seek medical attention if required. Even when tour plans are not necessary, it is wise to have the permission slip on hand. Sample permission slips can be found online or obtained from the council office.

Blackhawk Area Council, BSA

Risk Management Guide for Units

GUIDE TO SAFE SCOUTING

The *Guide to Safe Scouting* is a Unit Leader's guide for current policies and procedures to safe activities in the Boy Scouts of America. It outlines rules and regulations that must be followed for all Scouting functions, including adult leadership, transportation, and medical information.

The *Guide to Safe Scouting*, No. 34416, may be purchased through the Blackhawk Area Council Scout Shop. It is also available online at www.scouting.org under the "Volunteer" tab, or, at www.blackhawkscouting.org under the "Resources" tab.

Note: Changes are listed near the front of the "Guide to Safe Scouting".

Before any tour plan may be filed, the tour leader verifies that he/she has a copy of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* and has read it.

Other resources that cover BSA rules and regulations include *Health & Safety Guide*, No. 34415B and *Tour and Expeditions*, No. 33735A.

TRAINING COURSES

The Blackhawk Area Council recognizes the immediate need to train adult leaders in the proper design and operation of safe Scouting programs. There are safety courses offered that provide the most important and valuable of lessons on the health and safety issues of the BSA: Youth Protection, Climb on Safely, Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat, Trek Safely, and Weather. They are also available online at www.scouting.org.

BSA HEALTH & SAFETY

Experience has shown that the vast majority of serious injuries and fatalities reported to the National Health & Safety Service occurred in unit-related activities conducted off council properties. This course emphasizes the importance of qualified supervision and discipline. At least one leader from every unit is encouraged to complete this course and help promote the principles of safe Scouting. Participants will learn about the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, Sweet 16 of Safety, and the Risk Zone.

Revised July 28, 2015

YOUTH PROTECTION

This course will bring awareness to all adults who work with youth on the following:

- ❖ **Recognizing** situations that place a child at-risk of abuse, how child abusers operate, and how to deter a child abuser from entering the BSA.
- ❖ **React or Respond** to a child who has been abused, and the type of abuse they have fallen victim to.
- ❖ **Report** a suspected case of abuse using Scouting procedures and State Law.

Supplements to Youth Protection Training are video programs for youth and parents. *A Time to Tell* (ages 11 to 14), *It Happened to Me* (ages 6 to 10), *Personal Safety Awareness* (ages 14 to 20).

Youth protection training is required for all activities requiring tour plans. Certification is good for two years.

CLIMB ON SAFELY

Climb on Safely is the Boy Scout of America's recommended procedure for conducting climbing/rappelling at a natural site or a specifically designed facility, such as a climbing wall or tower.

SAFE SWIM DEFENSE and SAFETY AFLOAT

Every unit will need a qualified, trained person over the age of 21 to supervise aquatic activities. These courses will help unit leaders understand the rules and regulations for BSA aquatic activities, and the role leaders play in providing fun, safe events. Re-certification is required every two years.

TREK SAFELY

Trek Safely training is designed to help troops and crews prepare for a variety of high adventure treks. Trek Safely highlights the seven principles when planning a BSA outdoor trek.

WEATHER

The online weather training module offers you information on how to find out what's happening weather wise at your destination, prior to leaving home, and during the activity.

Blackhawk Area Council, BSA**Risk Management Guide for Units****TRANSPORTATION SAFETY**

Distracted driving can result in deadly consequences. Distractions while driving come in many forms. Fatigue, texting, and cell phone use are the worst. Texting and smart phone use is extremely hazardous because it combines all three forms of distraction: visual, manual, and cognitive.

Be aware of killer fatigue and distractions while you are driving! Mental and physical fatigue and distractions, such as texting and using your smart phone, are two of the leading causes of highway crashes and fatalities. Motor vehicle accidents are also the most costly, in lives and claims, in the BSA.

Drivers are generally poor judges of their own level of fatigue and their driving skills. They are unable to predict just how tired they actually are, and they think they can operate a vehicle while using their smart phones. These two things can amount to a deadly combination!

What I can do to prevent distracted driving?

When you get behind the wheel: put your cell phone / smart phone away, turn the phone to "silent" or "off," only check your phone messages during rest stops or food breaks. If you must use the phone, pull the vehicle off the road and to a safe location. Do not call or send messages to others you know are driving.

The driver is the only person who decides not to do things that can cause distractions. They should set the example for others.

SWEET 16 OF BSA SAFETY

1. **Have Qualified Supervision**
2. **Physical Fitness for All Participants**
3. **Use the Buddy System**
4. **Ensure a Safe Area or Course**
5. **Equipment Selection and Maintenance**
6. **Each Person should have Personal Safety Equipment**
7. **Know Safety Procedures and Policies**
8. **Know the Skill Level Limits of the Activities**
9. **Constantly Monitor the Weather**
10. **Thoroughly Plan the Activity**

11. **Adequate Communication: With participants and in an emergency**
12. **File Tour Permits and Give Adequate Notice for the Activity**
13. **First-Aid: Have adequate supplies and trained personnel available**
14. **Comply with Applicable Laws**
15. **CPR Trained Adult: Available for strenuous outdoor activity**
16. **Adequate Discipline and Respect**

INCIDENT REPORTING

In an event where an individual is injured or serious illness occurs, proper and adequate care, treatment, and transportation of the individual is primary importance. Careless handling of a victim following an accident can make the injuries worse.

The next responsibility is to notify the proper Scouting authorities. It is the council policy that the following be reported to the Council Scout Executive or the designee as soon as possible.

- All deaths or serious injuries.
- Injury to a Scout or adult on a Scout function (on or off Scout property) in which medical treatment, other than at-scene first aid is performed.
- Any situation occurring in connection with a Scout function (whether on or off Scout property) in which a Scout or adult is transported to hospital, whether or not the Scout/adult is admitted.

The unit leader in charge must obtain medical assistance, provide transportation and contact the family. Arrangements will be made to secure personal equipment for safe delivery to the home, if requested.

In case of a reporting situation, it is the responsibility of the person in charge of the event/function/trip to contact one of the Council officials. The council official handles media relations and ensures that National and local Scout policies are met.

The accident report form can be found on www.blackhawkscouting.org in "Forms & Printed Material" under the "Resources" tab.

Blackhawk Area Council, BSA

Risk Management Guide for Units

UNAUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES

The following activities have been declared unauthorized by the Boy Scouts of America:

1. All-terrain vehicles (ATVs), except for council-approved ATV programs
2. Boxing, karate, and related martial arts, except judo, aikido, and Tai Chi
3. Exploration of abandoned mines
4. Varsity football teams and interscholastic or club football competition and activities
5. Fireworks secured, used, or displayed in conjunction with program and activities
6. The selling of fireworks as a fund-raising or money earning activity
7. Flying in hang gliders, ultralights, experimental aircraft, or hot-air balloons (non-tethered); parachuting; and flying in aircraft as part of a search and rescue mission
8. Motorized go-carts and motorbike activities or participating in motorized speed events, including motorcycles, boats, drag racing, demolition derbies, and related events
9. Participation in amateur or professional rodeo events
10. Motorized personal watercraft (PWC), such as Jet-Skis®, except for council-approved PWC programs
11. Parasailing, or any activity in which a person is carried aloft by a parachute, parasail, kite, or other device towed by a motorboat, including a tube, or by any other means
12. All activities related to bungee cord jumping (sometimes called shock cord jumping)
13. Technical tree-climbing with ropes or harnesses
14. Water chugging and related activities
15. Hunting
16. Pointing any type of firearm or simulated firearm at any individual is unauthorized
17. Except for law enforcement officers required to carry firearms within their jurisdiction, firearms shall not be brought on camping, hiking, backpacking, or other Scouting activities except those specifically planned for target shooting under the supervision of a currently certified BSA national shooting sports director or National Rifle Association firearms instructor.

RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES

The following activities have been declared restricted by the Boy Scouts of America:

1. Chainsaws and mechanical log splitters may be used only by trained individuals over the age of 18, using proper protective gear in accordance with local laws
2. Tethered hot-air balloon flights are authorized, and a flying plan must be submitted
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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. (However, law enforcement departments and agencies using firearms in standard officer/agent training may use their training agenda when accompanied with appropriate safety equipment in the Law Enforcement Exploring program.)

The *Guide to Safe Scouting* contains a complete detailed listing of unauthorized and restricted activities.

The Boy Scouts of America's general liability policy provides coverage for bodily injury or property damage claims that arise out of an **official Scouting activity**.

Unauthorized activities are **NOT considered official Scouting activities**. Volunteers (registered and unregistered), units, chartered organizations, and local councils are jeopardizing insurance coverage for themselves and their organization by engaging in unauthorized activities.

Please do not put yourself at risk.

Blackhawk Area Council, BSA

Risk Management Guide for Units

COUNCIL SERVICE CENTER

For more information, please contact any member of the Blackhawk Area Council Risk Management Committee. The members are:

Bob Gingras (Chair)	815-288-5262
Emily Rinaldi (advisor)	815-397-0210 - ext 7539
Brent Bryden	815-378-0606
Jim Bussan	608-568-3177
Ken DeArvil	815-751-6118
Denny Kuntzelman	815-738-2337
Craig Louthain	815-547-9312
Rod Mathias	815-239-2354

Or; the Blackhawk Area Council Service Center:

Council Headquarters:

Blackhawk Area Council
Boy Scouts of America
2820 McFarland Rd
Rockford, IL 61107

815-397-0210

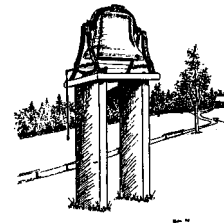
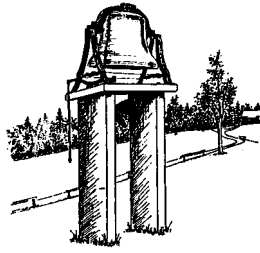
Tour plan email:

melinda.johnson@scouting.org



“The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.”

“The mission of the Blackhawk Area Council is to provide quality values-based character education for the Youth of America.”

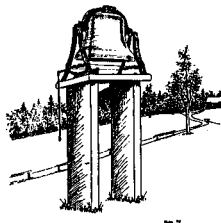


Canyon Camp & Camp Lowden Wish List

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 Emily Rinaldi, 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.

Spirit Scholarships

The Canyon Camp Spirit Scholarship program began in 1992 with staff alumni contributing funds for the first scholarships. In recent years an endowment has been accumulated to generate a majority of the scholarship funding distributed each year.

There are now four named scholarships awarded each year: Troy Larson Spirit Scholarship first awarded in 2005, Dennis Pratt Spirit Scholarship first awarded in 2006, Lee Binkley Spirit Scholarship first awarded in 2007, and Ronald Spielman Spirit Scholarship first awarded at the 2012 Staff Dinner.

Through 2015, scholarships totaling \$41,550 have been awarded to 128 recipients. The Spirit Scholarship Endowment Fund has grown to more than \$70,000 with an ultimate goal to exceed \$125,000 in the endowment.

Scholarship funding comes from staff alumni, Scouters, and Friends of Canyon Camp. Individuals making tax deductible contributions may select prints of pen and ink drawings of Canyon Camp scenes. To date, artist Elaine Bethke of Monroe has generated ten different prints:

Canyon Camp Bells
Held Nature Center
Stagecoach Trail Sign
Jamboree Cabin
The Chapel
Vickery Health Lodge
Rawleigh Headquarters Building
Hess Farmstead Barn
Founder's Lodge
Dining Hall Historical Signs

If you are interested in supporting the Spirit Scholarship Fund, contact Ron Spielman at 608-325-6490 or spiel335@tds.net.

New Web Site Promotes Canyon Camp

Dan Dick and Alex Semenchuk (re)launched a web site: Canyon Camp, BSA. The goal of this web site is to promote the beauty of the facilities at Canyon Camp for year round use.

Dan and Alex's web site should be attractive to troops interested in the Scouting programs offered during the summer and the facilities available to non-scout groups during other times of year.

If your group is looking for a place to hold an event — why not choose Canyon Camp? Dan and Alex welcome any and all suggestions to make their site better.

Summer Camp 2016

Is your troop listed on the chart?

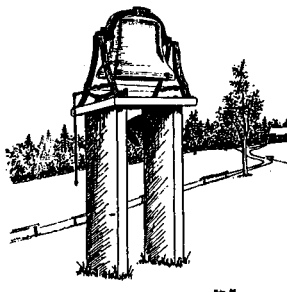
If your troop is not on the 2016 Summer Camp chart, contact Emily Rinaldi to get signed up!
 Emily.Rinaldi@scouting.org or 815-397-0210 ext. 7539

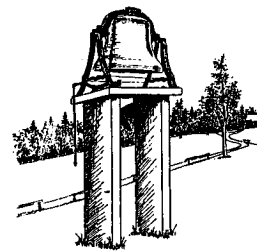
Canyon Camp

June 19-25		June 26-July 2		July 3-9		July 10-18		July 17-23	
OOC	83	OOC	19	WTSA	4	WTSA	7	AH	101
WAN	5	WAN	32	WE	72	WTSA	26/31	WAN	206
WTSA	27	WTSA	55	WTSA	91	WTSA	45		
WTSA	61	AH	67	AH	108	AH	106		
AH	76	AH	84	OOC	2810	OOC	128		
AH	88	AH	105						
AH	95	AH	115						
SYC	160	AH	125						
		AH	775						

Camp Lowden

June 19-25		June 26-July 2		July 3-9		July 10-18		July 17-23	
OOC	2	WE	96	WE	64	WE	52	OOC	19
WE	140	AH	180	SYC	132	OOC	199	OOC	33
WE	305			SYC	369			WAN	601
WE	902								
SYC	168								
OOC	4								





Hello from Canyon Camp! 2016 Canyon Camp Reunion

Boy Scout Summer Camp Staff

The Blackhawk Area Council is looking for good Boy Scouts, Venturers, and adults to be a part of the summer camp staff for the 2016 summer camp season at Camp Lowden and Canon Camp.

The benefits of being part of a summer camp staff are

- Leadership experience
- Sharpen people skills
- Sharpen outdoor skills
- Build teamwork skills
- Feel good about yourself because you are helping younger Scouts

Advantages for a troop or crew – the young man or woman will come back to your unit a much stronger person and leader.

Please encourage the outstanding members of your troop or crew to apply. Staff opportunities range from age 14 (CIT), age 15-17 (support staff), age 18-as young as you feel (area directors). Available positions and minimum age requirements are listed within the Camp Staff Application. The application is available at the council service center in Rockford, phone 815-397-0210, or on the council Web site: www.blackhawkscouting.org. Click on "Camping" to find the application and reference forms. Camp Lowden applications are also available on the camp Web site – www.camplowden.org.

Staff Interviews

Staff interviews will be held at the council service center in Rockford on Wednesday, December 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for Camp Lowden and Canyon Camp. Contact Emily Rinaldi at 815-397-0210, ext. 7539, to schedule your appointment. Additional interviews for Canyon Camp will be held on Saturday, January 9, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Monroe Public Library in Monroe, Wisconsin.

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.

The Canyon Camp Staff Alumni and Friends will gather July 6-7, 2016, for our next reunion, so save the date! I invite you and your family to join us at this reunion as we celebrate the 80th year of great summer camp programming at Canyon Camp!

This reunion is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, July 6-7, so you can see camp in operation with Scouts, sing songs in the Dining Hall with the current staff, and partake once again in the Wednesday Visitor's Night and Indian Dance pageant.

While we will have plenty of time to reminisce with alumni and friends at camp once more, we are also inviting former Scoutmasters to come and re-union with us at Canyon Camp! Scoutmasters Rod Simenson (Freeport), Dave Griffin and Art Whipple (Monroe), John Eversoll and Glenn Shaw (Elizabeth), Red Tyler (Savanna), Leon Bauer (Kiel), and Robert Fetty (Chicago) are just a few of the folks we expect to join us at this reunion.

We are intent on getting as many alumni, friends, and past Scoutmasters to join us at the reunion on July 6-7, 2016 - so please feel free to forward this message to anyone you know who brought Scouts to Canyon Camp or helped in other ways.

The reunion will start with a welcome and Scoutmaster's coffee at 9 a.m. on July 6 and conclude after lunch on July 7. In addition to reminiscing, we will provide updates on camp issues and you will have the opportunity to visit program areas, tour the (not so new) Wiley property or just wander the grounds. Throughout the reunion there will be an auction of items related to Canyon Camp – including benches made by John Weber and a bench made and signed by the late Dr. Harold Held, and we will experience the barbecue dinner and the Indian Dance pageant along the banks of Coon Creek.

You can camp overnight at the unimproved Wiley property. Portable toilets and water will be provided – bring a camper or tent if you like. A block of rooms has also been reserved at the Country Inn and Suites in Stockton with a special rate for those who would like to sleep in a real bed! When making your reservation mention you are with the Canyon Camp Staff Reunion – 815-947-6060.

Experiencing Canyon Camp vibrant and filled with Scouts engaged in learning outdoor skills is sure to bring back fond memories of our days working together as a staff and our interactions with so many of those who are the friends of Canyon Camp!

A registration form for the 2016 reunion will be sent at a later date. For now, be sure to mark your calendars for the July 6-7, 2016 Reunion of Canyon Camp Staff, Alumni, and Friends!

Mike Beeth
920-573-6248

Order of the Arrow
Wuapeju Lodge #140
2016 Dues Registration Form

Wulapeju Lodge # 140
Order of the Arrow
Winter Banquet
Saturday, January 16, 2016

Please print and include ALL information requested. All information must be legible or dues cannot be processed. Due date: December 1, 2015

Dues are \$13.00 Make checks payable to Blackhawk Area Council
Personal Information:

Last Name
First Name Middle Initial
Mailing Address
City
State Zip
Phone #
Birthdate (MM DD YYYY)

E-Mail @
We now have the ability to use email as a means of contact. Please provide an email address.

Membership Information:

Unit #
Registered as Scout Varsity Scout Venturer
Scouter District Member-At-Large
Council Member-At-Large Professional

Chapter (District):

Gokhos (White Eagle) Mawat (Wanchanagi)
Kishwaukee (Sycamore) Wetassa (Wetassa)
WWW (Arrowhead)

Honors (Please give dates as month, day and year)

Ordeal (/ /) Brotherhood: (/ /) Vigil: (/ /)
Vigil Name
English Translation:

Account #62371
Mail to Blackhawk Area Council, 2820 McFarland Road, Rockford, IL 61107

D'Andrea Banquets
4419 Northwest Hwy (RT 14)
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014
815-459-7234
Gather 5:00 p.m. Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Menu

Roast Sirloin of Beef/Au Jus
Country Ham with Fruit Sauce
Garden Salad
Whipped Garlic Potatoes
Buttered Kernel Corn
Rolls and Butter
Desert: Sherbet
Coffee, Soda

\$25.00 Before December 28
\$30.00 after December 28 until January 4

If you did your Ordeal in 2015, you will receive a \$2.00 discount!
2015 Ordeals \$23.00 Before December 28,
\$28.00 after December28 until January 4

No Walk-ins Please!*

* Walk-ins are welcome to attend the program but will not be seated for the meal

A Scout Is Courteous

Wulapeju Lodge # 140
Order of the Arrow
Winter Banquet Saturday,
January 16, 2016

\$25.00 Before December 28
\$30.00 after December 28 until January 4

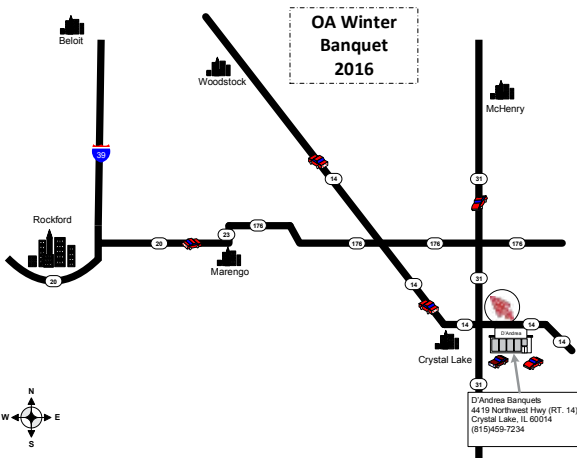
If you did your Ordeal in 2015 you will receive a \$2.00 discount!
2015 Ordeals \$23.00 Before December 28,
\$28.00 after December28 until January 4

One attendee per form please

Name
\$ Unit #

Chapter: Gokhos Kishwaukee Mawat
Wetassa Wulowachtauwoapin

Mail to Blackhawk Area Council Winter Banquet, 2820 Mcfarland Road, Rockford IL 61107





NOAC

This past August, Wulapeju Lodge was able to send 47 participants to NOAC at Michigan State University. At NOAC, Wulapeju went to phenomenal training sessions, watched exciting arena shows, and traded some amazing patches.

Some Wulapeju members were able to go to very exclusive events such as the Very Important Arrowman Luncheon, the National Council of Chiefs, the National Recognition Dinner, and even the Centennial Gala! Only four youth from the whole Central Region were invited to the National Recognition Dinner, and two of them were from Wulapeju! Whether they met the National Chief or went to the Grand Hodag, every participant was able to meet Arrowmen from around the world and have the time of their life.

Centurion Award Recipients

The Centurion Award aims to highlight “Hometown Heroes,” or Arrowmen who have meaningfully contributed to the forming, maturing, and ongoing operational excellence of their local council’s lodge, and who, in doing so, inspired others to follow in their footsteps.

This award is a one-time recognition associated with the centennial anniversary of the OA that is bestowed by the national Order of the Arrow committee. It is modeled after a similar program in the BSA’s 100th anniversary celebration, the 2010 National Hall of Leadership.

Accordingly, this recognition is an opportunity to highlight lodge development over the last century and the many individuals, both youth and adult, who were instrumental to this success. These honorees will serve as exemplars of leadership, modeling to others a commitment to cheerful service as the Order of the Arrow enters its second century. The honorees received a special medallion for their distinguished service.

Wulapeju Lodge had eight Centurion Award recipients. Each nominee must be designated as either a youth or adult contributor. The minimum service period is three years for a youth contributor and six years for an adult contributor.

Wulapeju’s youth recipients were Will Coots, Dan Dick, Josh Ehlers, Sam Payseur, and Mark Schaer. The adult recipients were Lee Binkley, David Hansen, and Randy Weaver. Those who that went to NOAC were recognized at a special Centurion Banquet, and all of our recipients will be recognized at our Winter Banquet this year.

Leadership Skills for Crews

The Leadership Skills for Crew syllabus has been completed and is ready for distribution. There is a change in the name as well (ILSC to LSC).

The purpose of the Leadership Skills for Crews (LSC) course is to equip Venturers with the leadership skills needed to be successful crew members, activity chairs, and officers. LSC is the first course in the series of leadership training offered to Venturers.

Additionally, LSC is required for Venturers to participate in advanced leadership courses including National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT), National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE), and Kodiak Challenge.

Crew 308 News

Venturing Crew 308 from Crystal Lake, Illinois, participated in the Central Region Venturing Extravaganza held at Rainbow Scout Reservation in Morris, Illinois in early October. The crew enjoyed many activities including slack lines, high rope COPE course, inflatable jousting, archery, shotgun shooting, and pistol shooting.

The Venturers “did their best” and took home the trophies for Top Shot Shotgun and Top Shot Handgun. They’re looking forward to defending their shooting titles at the Blackhawk Area Council Venturing Blast on February 26-28 at Camp Lowden!



Save the date for

Venturing Blast 2016

Coming February 26-28, 2016

to Camp Lowden

Calling all Venturers and Boy Scouts over 14.
Come join us for a weekend full of winter fun

—
Good times! Good food! Great friends!
Mark your calendars now and be there!!!
More information to come, stay tuned...
venturingblast@blackhawkscouting.org



Venturing Blast 2016

February 26-28, 2016

Camp Lowden

Registration Form

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 12.

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 Lissner, 1702 21st Ave., Monroe WI 53566.

Email questions to venturingblast@BlackhawkScouting.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.

Sycamore District

Serving McHenry County in Illinois

Web Site: www.sycamorebsa.org

Sycamore District Directory

Chairman: Mike Roe, mroe34@gmail.com

Vice-Chairman – Administration

Lance Snider, bsa.snider@gmail.com
630-525--518

Nominating Committee:

Mike Walsh, swals00@yahoo.com

Public Relations/Marketing (open)

Vice-Chair – Finance

Mike Pigliacelli
mike.pigliacelli@united.com

Popcorn (Open)

Special Events:

Mike Salzman
sportingclaysforscouts@gmail.com

Vice-Chair – Membership

Jen Broadfield-Colomer,
jenbroadfield@comcast.net

Boy Scout Open House: (open)

Venturing Recruiting: (open)

Fall Round-Up (open)

Recruitment: Paula Baumgarten
paulabaumgarten76@gmail.com

Exploring – Don Novak,
fourdnovak@aol.com

Webelos to Scout Transition: Joe Kobler
pkobler@comcast

Vice-Chair – Program:

Isaac Covert, bsa.covert@gmail.com

Activities and Civic Service:

Mike Roe

Advancement and Recognition:

Grace Esche, 815-206-6161
gesche_scouts@sbcglobal.net

Online Advancement Promotor:

Debbie Carlson, 847-354-0727

Camp Promotion:

Chuck Natoli

Dan Banko, dabscout@comcast.net

Day Camp Coordinator:

Leigh Anne Spears
inkitupanotch@sbcglobal.net

Cub Scout Summer Camp

Leigh Anne Spears
inkitupanotch@sbcglobal.net

OA Chief: Dan Munao

OA Advisor: Frank J. Munao
kishadvisor@wulapeju140.org

Scouting for Food:

Susan Clancy-Kelly, 847-516-3782

Training: Brian Lump, 815-546-9263

blumppy2002@yahoo.com

Cub Scout Training, Frank Colomer

frankcolomer@comcast.net

Boy Scout Training,

Wayne Kemp, 847-224-3664

wayne@ourkempfamily.com

Venturing Training: Rob Zerkel

robzerkel@gamil.com

Hornaday Award Advisor:

John Fioina, 815-321-9080

Youth Protection Training (open)

Commissioner:

Tom Lotito, bsa.lotito@gmail.com

Roundtables:

Cub Scouts: Gail Krec, 815-675-6578

Boy Scouts: Mike McCleary,

MJMcCleary@co.mchenry.il.us

District Director

Dane Boudreau, 815-397-0210

dane.boudreau@scouting.org

Sycamore District Calendar

November

- 26 Thanksgiving Day, council service center closed
- 27 Council service center closed

December

- 3 District Committee and Commissioner meeting
- 8 *Courier* deadline – January printed edition
- 10 Roundtable
- 10 FOS Presenter Training (at roundtable)
- 24 Christmas Eve, council service center closed
- 25 Christmas Day, council service center closed
- 31 New Year's Eve, council service center closed

January 2016

- 1 New Year's Day, council service center closed
- 5 *Courier* copy due – Internet edition for February through April events
- 7 District Committee and Commissioners meetings
- 14 Roundtable
- 16 Order of the Arrow Banquet
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr., Day, council service center closed
- 21 Council Coordinated Committee meetings
- 22-24 Klondike Derby

February

- 4 District Committee and Commissioners meeting
- 7-13 Scout Week
- 9 *Courier* copy due – Internet edition for March through May events
- 11 Roundtable
- 13 Eagle College
- 15 President's Day, council service center closed
- 20 Eagle College
- 26-28 Venturing Blast, Camp Lowden
- 27 Scouting for Food flyer distribution

March

- 3 District Dinner
- 5 Scouting for Food Day – pick up food
- 5 Trainer's EDGE
- 6 Council Recognition Dinner
- 8 *Courier* copy due – printed edition April through August events
- 10 Roundtable
- 12 Eagle College
- 19 Tiger Time
- 25 Good Friday, council service center closed
- 27 Easter

Upcoming Dates

Please add to your district calendar.

May 7 – Just We Two

May 13-15 – Woods of Webelos, Camp Lowden





Crew 1067 Wins Trophies at Camporee

Huntley Crew 1067 members, adult leaders, and Boy Scout Troop 167 guests pose with two awards the crew received at the 2015 Sycamore District Camporee held October 2-4 at Veterans Acres Park in Crystal Lake.

Crew 1067 enjoyed a weekend of adventure, friendly competitions, STEM displays (the 3-D printer capable of making prosthetic arms was amazing and a huge hit at the camporee), and fellowship with Scouts from Sycamore District.

Crew 1067 is pictured with the Camporee Spirit Award and the Tug of War trophy and we are looking forward to next year's camporee.

Webelos to Scout Transition

Over the next few months, there will be many opportunities to visit a troop in action. Most troops should be hosting a Webelos Invite outing. This outing can be an overnight experience or a one day activity. The troop outing fulfills an Arrow of Light requirement and gives the boys and parents a preview of the Boy Scout patrol camping.

The Webelos dens should also be visiting the troop meetings. This helps the Webelos Scout get an idea of how a meeting is run and can feel more at ease when it is time for the transition into the troop. Make sure to visit more than one troop!

Cubmaster/Webelos Den Leader

- Work with the Scoutmaster to plan the February crossover ceremony.
- The Webelos den should visit one or more troop meetings.

Troop/Scoutmaster

- Work with the Cubmaster and Webelos den leader to plan the February crossover ceremony.
- Invite the Webelos dens to one or more troop meetings.

A Frequently Asked Question –

- Can a Webelos Scout join a troop if he doesn't complete the Arrow of Light?
- He can join the troop when he completes the 5th grade and is at least 10½ years old or when he turns 11.
- A Boy Scout does not need to have been a Cub Scout.
- The Arrow of Light is a tool to help smooth the passage into the troop.
- Remember to learn the Scout Oath and the Scout Law!

Fun, fighting, and feeding!
These are the three indispensable elements of the boy' world.
Baden-Powell



MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Recruit! Recruit! Recruit!

Remember to always have recruitment in the back of your mind! There is an opportunity around every corner waiting to be taken! Talk with your Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers, and parents to spread the word about this awesome program and to invite non-Scouters to meetings, outings and events!

The membership team is always looking for opportunities to spread the word to join Boy Scouts! Please keep your eyes and ears open for any events that we can send a team of members to set a table, answer questions and promote the benefits to the youth about the BSA program!

Send event information to jenbroadfield@comcast.net.

Jennifer Broadfield-Colomer
Vice Chair Membership

If you make listening and observation your occupation,
you will gain much more than you can by talk.

Lord Baden-Powell



FOS Presenter Training

Sycamore FOS Presenter training will be held at roundtable on Thursday, December 10, during breakout session (roughly 7:45 to 8:30). RSVP to Michael Ancheta at Michael.ancheta@scouting.org.

Wanchanagi District

Serving Winnebago & Boone Counties in Illinois
Web Site: www.wanchanagi.org

Wanchanagi District Directory

All phone numbers are 815 area code unless otherwise indicated

Chairman: Mark Broman:

815-218-5514

markbroman@hotmail.com

Vice-Chairman – Administration

Belinda Zezniewski, 654-1449

Chaplain:

Religious Emblems Coordinator:

MaryAnn Bushaw, 904-4287

Webmaster: Belinda Zezniewski,

654-1449

Webmaster@wanchanagi.org

Parades: Mark Broman, 218-5514

Flag Retirement: Paul Trent, 871-3801

Vice-Chairman – Finance

FOS Family Campaign

Popcorn: Cliff Chappelle,

cliffscubs80@yahoo.com

Vice-Chairman – Membership:

Fran Waller, 248-2291

Cub Scout Recruiting:

Larry Swanson, 877-8164

Boy Scout Recruiting:

Webelos-to-Scout Transition:

Larry Swanson, 877-8164

Vice-Chair – Activities

Bill Spivey, 243-0671

Klondike Derby: Brian Berridge, 289-2528

Continuous Fire: Don Reis, 633-4565

Scouting for Food:

Don Burrow, 877-0658

Chuck Pelman, 282-9833

Patch Designer: Dale Broman, 218-8735

Vice-Chair – Advancement

Connie Snyder, 234-5417

Cub Scouting: (open)

Boy Scouting: Melinda Johnson,

(Day) 397-0210, (Home) 633-6335

Eagle Chair: Ida Bolen, 239-2634

Merit Badges: Ken Mosny,

wanchanagi.mb@comcast.net

Vice-Chair – Camping:

Ed Colson, 871-5464

Cub Scout Day Camp Program

District Coordinator:

Boone County:

Roger Wooten, 630-272-1019

Christine Wooten, 547-9348

W. Winnebago: Rob Bucey, 985-3221

Ida Bolen, 289-0661

Harlem: Carolyn Wolfe, 494-0508

Program Center:

Alice Roby, 773-368-5724

Order of the Arrow Advisor

Denny Johnson, 633-6335

Chapter Chief: Jarod K.

Vice-Chair – Training:

Gene Barney, 262-7919

Cub Scouting:

Alice Roby, 773-368-5724

Larry Swanson, 877-8164

Boy Scouting: Gene Barney, 262-7919

Youth Protection: Tom Varisco, 387-6448

Vice-Chair – Venturing:

Eric Schmidt, 505-1507

Training: Gene Barney, 262-7919

Eric Schmidt, 505-1507

District Commissioner:

Ron Scott, soccerrefl@charter.net

815-601-7754

Boy Scout Roundtable (open)

Cub Scout Roundtable

Linda Bowers, 988-1396

Senior District Executive:

Jared Carlin, 815-397-0210

jared.carlin@scouting.org

March

- 3 District Committee and District Commissioner Staff meetings
- 5 Scouting for Food Day – pick up food
- 5 Trainer's EDGE
- 6 Council Recognition Dinner
- 8 *Courier* copy due – printed edition April through August events
- 10 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 19 BALOO training
- 25 Good Friday, council service center closed
- 27 Easter

Wanchanagi District Calendar

November

- 26 Thanksgiving Day, council service center closed
- 27 Council service center closed

December

- 3 District Committee meeting
- 3 District Commissioners meeting
- 8 *Courier* deadline – January printed edition
- 10 Roundtable
- 10 Order of the Arrow meeting
- 24 Christmas Eve, council service center closed
- 25 Christmas Day, council service center closed
- 31 New Year's Eve, council service center closed

January 2016

- 1 New Year's Day, council service center closed
- 5 *Courier* copy due – Internet edition for February through April events
- 7 District Committee and Commissioners meetings
- 14 Roundtable
- 14 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 16 Order of the Arrow Banquet
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr., Day, council service center closed
- 21 Council Coordinated Committee meetings
- 23 Klondike Derby

February

- 4 District Committee meeting
- 4 District Commissioners meeting
- 7-13 Scout Week
- 11 Roundtable
- 11 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 9 *Courier* copy due – Internet edition for March through May events
- 15 President's Day, council service center closed
- 26-28 Venturing Blast, Camp Lowden
- 27 Scouting for Food flyer distribution

Eagle Scout Training

All Wanchanagi troops please provide the following to the district Eagle chair, Ida Bolen. Send by email to i.bolen@yahoo.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@yahoo.com or by phone at 815-239-2634.

Eagle Project Review Date December 9

Email Mrs. Bolen at i.bolen@yahoo.com to register to have your project reviewed.

Are you interested in attending the Eagle Process Workshop? The next one has been scheduled. Email the address above to get registered. Bring your parents, Eagle Coordinator for your unit, pen, paper, and your questions.

A return email will be sent as a confirmation of your request for either event.

Confused on the Eagle Process?

Are you a Star or Life Scout and wish to work on the Eagle rank?

There is an Eagle Process Workshop being offered. You will learn where to go and the process to make your journey more successful. Bring your parents, your unit Eagle Advisor, your Scoutmaster, paper, pen and any questions you have.

All you need to do is contact Mrs. Bolen at i.bolen@yahoo.com to make a reservation for the next workshop. Your reservation will be confirmed and the date, time, and location will be provided. If you are not quite ready, don't worry. The workshop will be offered quarterly so can get the up-to-date information later.

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.

We Want Your Input

If you have any news/photos of your unit that you would like printed in the *Courier*, please e-mail Mary Anne Rounds at BACCourier@juno.com.



Upcoming Training

All Times: 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
(unless otherwise noted)

As a courtesy to the trainer, please R.S.V.P for training
Contact/Trainer

Gene Barney – Boy Scout, 815-262-7919
Alice Roby – Cub Scout, 773-368-5724, or
alice@oextreme.com

Spring 2016 Classes

March 19, 2016 – BALOO - Cub Scout Basic Adult Leadership Outdoor Leadership
Available on request – Troop Committee Challenge

For more information, go to www.blackhawkscouting.org/Wanchanagi/News/WanchanagiTraining



Troop 57 at The Summit Bechtal Reserve

Twenty-one members from Alpine Lutheran Church Troop 57 recently traveled to West Virginia for high adventure camp at the new Paul R Christian High Adventure Base at Summit Bechtal Reserve. This is the second year for high adventure programs at Summit and proved to be an exciting experience for all.

Each Scout was able to choose the focus area that most interested them. Troop 57 Scouts spent three days in either the River, Marksman, Helmets & Harnesses, or Tires & Trails programs. These were intense three day programs that taught and tested the Scouts' skills, perseverance, teamwork, and leadership.

The programs were then followed up with service projects for the camp or New River Gorge National Park, the 3200 ft. "Big Zip" zip line that reaches speeds of up to 60 mph, and two half day high adventure sessions of the Scout's choice.

The closing ceremony ended with everyone arm in arm singing "Take Me Home, Country Roads" by John Denver. For this Scouter, besides bringing a tear to my eye, the experience and closing song took me back to my youth. For the Scouts, they learned a new song, made new friends, realized what is possible, and have memories that will last a lifetime.

Cindi Gustafson

Save the Date!
BALOO
Basic Adult Leader
Outdoor Orientation
March 19, 2016

BALOO is designed for the coordinator of pack overnight camping. At least one BALOO-trained leader is required to attend all pack overnights.



Roundtable

6:45 p.m.

Christ United Methodist Church

Each month we hold a roundtable for unit leaders. It is not just for the Cubmaster or Scoutmaster. It is for all leaders including den leaders, committee members, and all assistants. The purposes of roundtable are to

- Provide the skill to do – abilities to make a successful unit operation.
- Provide the will to do – helps recharge our batteries to provide desire to help the youth.

Wanchanagi District holds roundtable on the second Thursday of the month. The roundtable staff is excited to have everyone attend and to meet the needs of the units. To include as much content to the event as possible, we will be adding some new features. Roundtable will start at 6:45 p.m. We will continue to have breakout sessions for both levels, but we will also add a breakout focusing on a specific topic.

News From Pack 77 in Poplar Grove

Pack 77 participated in Veterans' Day activities at the Belvidere VFW.

Christine Kochanowski
 Committee Chairman/Webelos Den Leader
 Cub Scout Pack 77



Hunter Petersen (left) with Gabriel Kochanowski -- both of Pack 77.



Veterans Day Ceremony at the Belvidere VFW From left to right Nicole Spana, Crew; Tim Spana, Troop 224; Gabriel Kochanowski, Pack 77; and Hunter Petersen, Pack 77.



2016 Wanchanagi Klondike Derby

The 2016 Wanchanagi District Klondike Derby will be held at Camp Lowden on Saturday, January 23, 2016.

Dinosaur Theme! Back-to-basics, Scout skills activities including map and compass, signs and codes, fire building, catapults, and more!

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*

Troop 181 Events

Troop 181 Attended Jamborall



Troop 181 did its annual pumpkin carving meeting on October 27. Some of our scouts donated their creations to the Village of Cherry Valley (outdoor bleachers) for its newest town display.

Troop 181 Created Their Own "Minute to Win It"



Allowing a broom handle to fall onto a paper plate with a marshmallow, which flies back at you to be caught in a cup (or your mouth).



cups on a slanted table; each rolls around to the next one to start it rolling.

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*

2015 - 2016 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 7:00-8:00 p.m., at North Park Fire Department, corner of Harlem and Forest Hills, Loves Park, Illinois.

Contact: Dennis Johnson at 815-633-6335 or scoutmaster601@gmail.com

Rockford Fire Department

Contact: Investigator Jeff Kloweit at 815-987-5699 or mailto:Jeff.Kloweit@rockfordil.gov.

North Boone Fire Department

Contact: John Ragland, 815-765-2791.



Journalism & Media:

Rockford Register Star

Meeting time to be announced.

For more information, 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 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 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 Scott Oswald, 815-587-5871, Scott.Oswald@rockfordil.gov

Winnebago City Police Department.

Contact: Nicholas Haff, Haff@BagoPolice.com, 815-335-2351

Skilled Trades:

Northern Illinois Building Contractors Association.

Contact: Pat Lamb, 815-229-5636, pat@nibca.net.

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 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 to 6:30 p.m. 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 krohrer@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, 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 Directory

All phone numbers are 815 area code unless otherwise indicated

Chair: Dave Twining, 815-499-6711

dtwining@comcast.net

ice Chair – Administration (open):

Nominating Committee Chair:

Harry Fletcher, 742-0069

PR Chair: Sally Oelrichs, 815-625-5567

smoelrichs@gmail.com

Vice Chair – Membership:

Bruce Colmark, 441-1992

Webelos-to-Scout Transition (open)

Spring Roundup Chair:

Ginger and Darrien Albano, 631-0457

Vice-Chair – Finance:

FOS Community Chair:

Mark Zeigler, 713-1390

FOS Family Chair:

Chip Donahue, 626-5905

Fall Popcorn Kernel (Whiteside):

Margie Baker, 718-2289

kernelbaker@yahoo.com

Hans Kruger, 732-6892

hkberlin@inwave1.com

Pat O'Brien, 732-4186

Spring Popcorn Kernel (Lee & Ogle):

Margie Baker, 772-7123

kernelbaker@yahoo.com

Vice Chair – Program:

Don Rastede, 625-3542

Boy Scout Activities:

Cub Scout Activities:

Special Events Chair

Advancement Chair:

Ray Gruber, 732-6807

rggruber@yahoo.com

Religious Programs: Myles Newberry,

209-7327

mylesnewberry@sbcglobal.net

Scouting for Food: Kate Lehrke

Camping Chair: Thomas Halla, 284-3308

Cub Scout Day Camp – Lowden

Brian Broers, 815-973-2551

West Day Camp

Shane Adams, 815-564-8594

OA Advisor:

Rick Rhoads, 562-4369

rrhoads63@aol.com.

OA Chapter Chief:

Brandon Colmark

Boy Scout Leader Training Chair:

Gregg Ripley, 631-6399

gwriley61071@yahoo.com

Cub Scout Leader Training:

Gregg Ripley, 631-6399

gwriley61071@yahoo.com

Youth Protection Training:

Vice Chair – Venturing:

Program:

Advancement: Deb Slager, 946-2255

Training:

District Commissioner:

Myles Newberry, 815-209-7327

mylesnewberry@sbcglobal.net

Boy Scout Roundtable Commissioner

Angie Hawkins, 815-761-1551

mrshawkeye95@yahoo.com

District Executive: Matt Olms

815-397-0210

March

- 2 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 3 District Committee meeting
- 5 Scouting for Food Day – pick up food
- 5 Trainer's EDGE
- 6 Council Recognition Dinner
- 8 *Courier* copy due – printed edition April through August events
- 10 District Commissioners meeting
- 10 Roundtable
- 19 First Aid Merit Badge Day
- 25 Good Friday, council service center closed
- 27 Easter

White Eagle District Calendar

November

- 26 Thanksgiving Day, council service center closed
- 27 Council service center closed

December

- 2 Order of the Arrow meeting
- 3 District Committee meeting
- 8 *Courier* deadline – January printed edition
- 10 District Commissioners meeting
- 10 Roundtable
- 24 Christmas Eve, council service center closed
- 25 Christmas Day, council service center closed
- 31 New Year's Eve, council service center closed

January 2016

- 1 New Year's Day, council service center closed
- 5 *Courier* copy due – Internet edition for February through April events
- 6 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 7 District Committee meeting
- 9 Merit Badge Day
- 14 District Commissioners meeting
- 14 Roundtable
- 16 Order of the Arrow Banquet
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr., Day, council service center closed
- 21 Council Coordinated Committee meetings
- 23 Klondike Derby

February

- 3 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 4 District Committee meeting
- 7-13 Scout Week
- 9 *Courier* copy due – Internet edition for March through May events
- 11 District Commissioners meeting
- 11 Roundtable
- 15 President's Day, council service center closed
- 26-28 Venturing Blast, Camp Lowden
- 27 Scouting for Food flyer distribution

White Eagle District Merit Badge Day January 9, 2016

The event will be held at Sauk Valley College, 173 Illinois Rt. 2 (near Sterling Illinois)

Go to www.meritbadge.info for classes available and registration information.

Merit Badge Day Adult Leader Training

- 08:15 – 11:45 Advancement and Life to Eagle Training
- 08:30 -- 10:40 Scoutmaster Specific Training, part I (Cost of \$5.00 for I - III)
- 10:40 – 12:00 Scoutmaster Specific Training, part IIa
- 12:00 -- 12:30 Lunch
- 12:30 – 1:50 Scoutmaster Specific Training, part IIb
- 1:50 - 4:30 Scoutmaster Specific Training, part III
- 12:30 - 4:15 Troop Committee Training
- 12:30 - 4:15 Merit Badge Counselor Training
- 08:15 - 4:15 Computers and assistance will be provided for all adult online training

(Must bring your "myscouting" ID and password)

(Cub Scout Leader Fast Start, Boy Scout Leader Fast Start, Venturing Advisor Fast Start, Varsity Leader Fast Start, Unit Commissioner Fast Start, This Is Scouting, Youth Protection, Venturing Youth Protection, Trek Safely, Climb on Safely, Safety Afloat, Safe Swim Defense, Hazardous Weather, Troop Committee Challenge, Scout Parents Unit Coordinator, Venturing Crew Orientation, Generational Diversity, Staffing the District Committee, Welcome to Den Chief Training)

Adults **MUST** make reservations for their training choices online so we can "Be Prepared" for you.
 Adult training is FREE (unless otherwise noted) if you pay the \$5 registration.

White Eagle District Merit Badge Day

Saturday January 9th 2016
 At Sauk Valley College

Scouts Name: _____ registration \$10.00
 Lunch: Includes 6" sub sandwich, drink, chips, and cookies
Choose one drink & one sandwich
Drink: Water Regular Pop Diet Pop \$6.00
Sandwich: 3-Cheese Turkey Ham & Cheese Turkey & Ham
 Total Cost \$16.00

Sign up for one morning class and one afternoon class

Morning Class: (8-noon) _____

Afternoon Class: (12:30-4:30) _____

Wear your dress Scout (Class "A") uniform.
 Bring note paper, pen, and your merit badge worksheets.
 You need to be at Sauk Valley by 7:15 a.m.



Roundtables

Roundtables are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Dixon.

Upcoming Boy Scout Roundtable Special Topics

- December – Positivity Means Success; The 2016 White Eagle Challenge
- January 2016 – OA Elections Overview
- February 2016 – Youth Retention and Family Involvement

Roundtables are held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Dixon. Roundtables begin at 7:00 p.m.

If you have questions, please contact Angela Hawkins at 815-761-1551 or mrshawkeye95@yahoo.com.

18th Annual Merit Badge Day

Saturday, January 9, 2016

7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Sauk Valley Community College, 173 Illinois Rt. 2 (midway between Dixon and Sterling)

Cost **including lunch** is \$16.00 per Scout until January 3, 2016

Cost **including lunch** is \$11.00 per adult until January 3, 2016

Cost **without lunch** is \$10.00 per Scout and \$5 per adult until January 3, 2016

No reservations after January 3, 2016



Everyone must register and an adult must be registered in order to register Scouts.

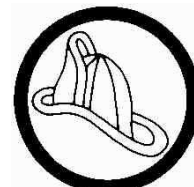
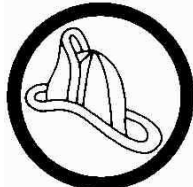
You must pay online in order to register.

You can order lunches and approve waivers during online registration.
(Sandwich choices are 3-cheese, ham & cheese, turkey, or turkey & ham.)

Drink choices are regular, diet, and water).

(Includes lunch – 6” sub-sandwich, chips, pop or water, and cookie)

(Additional lunches can be ordered at \$6.00)



Check the website for the most current list of classes

8:00 a.m. to Noon	12:30 to 4:30 p.m.
American Business (max. 25 Scouts) (bring 2003 requirement 5 in a well-worded report answering all questions) (contact the counselor with any questions tyler@prattassoc.com)	Entrepreneurship (max. 25 Scouts) (bring 2014 requirement 2 in a well-worded report answering all questions) (contact the counselor with any questions tyler@prattassoc.com)
Astronomy (max. 25 Scouts) (bring 2013 requirements 6)	Space Exploration (max. 25 Scouts) (bring 2014 requirements 2, 5, & 7)
Aviation (max. 25 Scouts) (Bring 2014 requirements 2 and 4)	Aviation (max. 25 Scouts) (Bring 2014 requirements 2 and 4)
Chemistry (maximum 20 Scouts) (bring 2006 requirement 7)	Chemistry (maximum 20 Scouts) (bring 2006 requirement 7)
Citizenship in the Community (max 30 Scouts) (bring 2013 requirements 2a123, 3a, 4ab, 7, & 8)	Citizenship in the Community (max 30 Scouts) (bring 2013 requirements 2a123, 3a, 4ab, 7, & 8)
Citizenship in the Nation (max. 50 Scouts) (bring 2005 requirements 2, 3, 6, & 8)	Citizenship in the Nation (max. 50 Scouts) (bring 2005 requirements 2, 3, 6, & 8)
Citizenship in the World (max 80 Scouts) (bring 2005 requirements 3 & 7)	Citizenship in the World (max 80 Scouts) (bring 2005 requirements 3 & 7)
Communications (max 25 Scouts) (bring 2014 requirements 3, 5, 7, & 8)	Communications (max 25 Scouts) (bring 2014 requirements 3, 5, 7, & 8)
Cooking (max 25 Scouts) (bring 2014 requirements 5, 6, & 7)	Cooking (max 25 Scouts) (bring 2014 requirements 5, 6, & 7)
Dentistry (maximum 16 Scouts) (bring 2010 requirement. 3 PROOF of exam)	Dentistry (maximum 16 Scouts) (bring 2010 requirement. 3 PROOF of exam)
Digital Technology (max. 24 Scouts) (bring 2014 requirements 1 & 5c)	Digital Technology (max. 24 Scouts) (bring 2014 requirements 1 & 5c)
Electricity (maximum 30 Scouts) (bring 2013 requirements 2, 8, & 9)	Electricity (maximum 30 Scouts) (bring 2013 requirements 2, 8, & 9)
Energy (maximum 30 Scouts) (Will complete all 2015 requirements)	Energy (maximum 30 Scouts) (Will complete all 2015 requirements)
Engineering (maximum 30 Scouts) (Will complete all 2009 requirements)	Engineering (maximum 30 Scouts) (Will complete all 2009 requirements)
Emergency Preparedness (max. 30 Scouts) (bring 2013 requirements 1, 8abc, & 9b)	Emergency Preparedness (max. 30 Scouts) (bring 2013 requirements 1, 8abc, & 9b)
Environmental Science (max. 20 Scouts) (bring 2015 requirements 3d3, 3e1, 3f1 or 3f2, & 4b)	Environmental Science (max. 20 Scouts) (bring 2015 requirements 3d3, 3e1, 3f1 or 3f2, & 4b)
American Labor (maximum 30 Scouts) (bring 2006 requirement 7)	Fingerprinting (maximum 20 Scouts) (Will complete all 2004 requirements)

8:00 a.m. to Noon	12:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Fingerprinting (maximum 20 Scouts) (Will complete all 2004 requirements)	Fingerprinting (maximum 20 Scouts) (Will complete all 2004 requirements)
Fire Safety (maximum 30 Scouts) (Will complete all requirements)	Fire Safety (maximum 30 Scouts) (Will complete all requirements)
Geocaching (maximum 20 Scouts) (Will complete all 2010 requirements)	Geocaching (maximum 20 Scouts) (Will complete all 2010 requirements)
Golf (maximum 20 Scouts) (bring 2003 requirement 8)	Golf (maximum 20 Scouts) (bring 2003 requirement 8)
Law (maximum 20 Scouts) (Will complete all 2003 requirements)	Law (maximum 20 Scouts) (Will complete all 2003 requirements)
Moviemaking (maximum 8 Scouts) (Will complete all 2014 requirements)	Moviemaking (maximum 8 Scouts) (Will complete all 2014 requirements)
Oceanography (maximum 20 Scouts) (bring 2012 requirement 8)	Oceanography (maximum 20 Scouts) (bring 2012 requirement 8)
Personal Management (max 30 Scouts) (bring 2004 requirements 1, 2, 8, 9, & 10)	Personal Management (max 30 Scouts) (bring 2003 requirements 1, 2, 8, 9, & 10)
Photography (maximum 20 Scouts) (contact the counselor about the 2013 requirement 4 project, 815-675-7465 or mylesnewberry@sbcglobal.net)	Photography (maximum 20 Scouts) (contact the counselor about the 2013 requirement 4 project, 815-675-7465 or mylesnewberry@sbcglobal.net)
Public Health (maximum 40 Scouts) (bring 2015 requirements 5 & 7) and Disability Awareness (bring 2014 requirements 2, 4, & 7)	Family Life (maximum 25 Scouts) (bring 2005 requirement 3, 4, 5, & 6)
Stamp Collecting (maximum 30 Scouts) (Will complete all 2007 requirements)	Stamp Collecting (maximum 30 Scouts) (Will complete all 2007 requirements)
Textile (maximum 20 Scouts) (Will complete all 2004 requirements)	Textile (maximum 20 Scouts) (Will complete all 2004 requirements)
Traffic Safety (maximum 30 Scouts) (bring 2006 requirements 3a, 4a, & 5)	Truck Transportation (maximum 30 Scouts) (bring 2005 requirement 4)
Veterinary Medicine & Dog Care (Max 20 Scouts) (bring VM-2006 requirements 1, 4, 5, & 6 DC-2013 requirements 4 & 8)	Veterinary Medicine & Dog Care (Max 20 Scouts) (bring VM-2006 requirements 1, 4, 5, & 6 DC-2013 requirements 4 & 8)
Public Speaking (maximum 15 Scouts) (bring 2003 requirements 2, 4 & 5)	Weather (maximum 30 Scouts) (bring 2013 requirements 9, 10 & 11)
Welding (maximum 20 Scouts) (bring 2012 requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, & 7)	Welding (maximum 20 Scouts) (bring 2012 requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, & 7)
Plumbing (maximum 20 Scouts) (All-day class -- bring 2005 requirements 1a, 1b, & 1c)	
Scouts should download the merit badge worksheets from www.usscouts.org and complete as many requirements as possible and bring them on January 9, 2016.	

To register between October 1, 2015, and January 3, 2016
 – go to <http://blackhawkscouting.doubleknot.com/event/2016-white-eagle-district-merit-badge-day/1790890>
 and follow the instructions. Be prepared to pay online.

**See page 81 for Registration Form
and list of Scouter training sessions**

Wetassa District

Serving Stephenson, Jo Daviess and Carroll in Illinois

Web site -- www.BlackhawkScouting.org/Wetassa

Wetassa District Directory

All numbers are 815 area code unless otherwise indicated

District Chairman, Rick Cass, 815-757-7424

Linrik2004@gmail.com

Vice-Chair – Administration

Lee Kraut, 815-297-8247

LKraut@comcast.net

District Communications/PR Chair (open)

Newsletter, Liz Hollis, 233-4870

District Nominating Committee:

Lee Kraut, 815-297-8247

Gary Erickson

Dana Ewers, 541-5322

Kathy Tobin, 297-3843

District Dinner and Awards

Laura Welti

Vice-Chair – Finance – Gene Nott, 235-4575

FOS, Gene Nott, 235-4575

Community Campaign (Open)

Vice-Chair – Membership:

Jim Clay, 291-0716, jclayjr@att.net

Vice-Chair – Program:

Josh Ehlers, 815-297-6748

Joshua_ehlers@hotmail.com

Activities: (Open)

Boy Scout:

Klondike Derby:

Spring Camporee

Fall Camporee

Cub Scout:

Fun Day (open)

Day Camp:

Advancement, Liz Hollis, 233-4870

Life-to-Eagle Seminars:

Liz Hollis, 233-4870

Eagle Project/Boards of Review:

Liz Hollis, 233-4870

Tom Gillespie, 233-3284

Merit Badge Counselors:

Liz Hollis, 233-4870

Camping, Bob Boyer, 369-2834

OA Advisor, David Hanson, 273-2436

Scouting for Food, Kathy Tobin, 297-3843

Training : Dana Ewers, 541-5322

Boy Scout –

Cub Scout – Tom Nord, 232-3760

Venturing – Tina Disch, 291-8104

Religious Emphasis, Kathy Tobin, 297-3843

Vice-Chair – Venturing and Exploring

Joe Shippy, 266-0649

District Commissioner

Kathy Tobin, 297-3843

Roundtable Commissioners

Boy Scout – Rick Cass, 757-7424

Cub Scout – Jim Clay, 291-0716

District Executive:

Matt Ohms, 815-397-0210

Roundtable Meeting New Location!

Bethany United Church of Christ

2341 West Stephenson Street Road

Freeport, IL 61032.



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.

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.

Wetassa District Calendar

November

- 26 Thanksgiving Day, council service center closed
- 27 Council service center closed

December

- 2 District Commissioner staff meeting
- 2 District Committee meeting
- 8 *Courier* deadline – January printed edition
- 9 Roundtable
- 9 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 24 Christmas Eve, council service center closed
- 25 Christmas Day, council service center closed
- 31 New Year's Eve, council service center closed

January 2016

- 1 New Year's Day, council service center closed
- 5 *Courier* copy due – Internet edition for February through April events
- 6 District Committee meeting
- 6 District Commissioners meeting
- 13 Roundtable
- 13 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 16 Order of the Arrow Banquet
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr., Day, council service center closed
- 21 Council Coordinated Committee meetings
- 23 Klondike Derby

February

- 3 District Committee meeting
- 3 Commissioner Staff meeting
- 7-13 Scout Week
- 9 *Courier* copy due – Internet edition for March through May events
- 10 Roundtable -- Fireside Chat
- 10 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 15 President's Day, council service center closed
- 26-28 Venturing Blast, Camp Lowden
- 27 Scouting for Food flyer distribution

March

- 2 District Commissioner Staff meeting
- 2 District Committee meeting
- 2 Scouting for Food Day – pick up food
- 5 Trainer's EDGE
- 6 Council Recognition Dinner
- 8 *Courier* copy due – printed edition April through August events
- 9 Roundtable
- 9 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 25 Good Friday, council service center closed
- 27 Easter

Arrowhead District

Serving Grant, Lafayette, and Green Counties in Wisconsin

Web Site: www.arrowheadbsa.org

Arrowhead District Directory

District Chairman:
Daniel Frommelt, 608-732-8536,
danielmfrommelt@gmail.com

Vice-Chair Administration:
Dan Bestul, 608-328-8055
 Risk Management Representative
 James Bussan, 608-568-3177

Vice-Chair Finance: Open
 Family FOS:
 Dee Woolf, 608-348-7403
 Popcorn Kernel:
 Valerie Saalsaa, 608-543-9448

Vice-Chair Membership:
 James Gerhards, 563-581-2502
 Boy Scout Membership: (Open)
 Cub Scout Membership: Heather Lisser,
 608-214-0970
 Life-to-Eagle Transition:
 Chris Brunette, 608-348-4552
 Webelos-to-Scout Transition:
 Bert Leach, 608-558-3924

Vice-Chair Program:
 David Wisnefske, 608-325-4606
 Activities:
 Kevin Olson, 608-778-1950
 Advancement: Andy Elkins,
 608-279-2962 or elkins4@tds.net.
 Eagle Board:
 James Bussan, 608-568-3177

Mike Johansen, 608-723-7077
 Art Whipple, 608-325-5734
 Neil Spurr, 815-777-2166
 Don Vannatta, 608-962-1390
 Camping:
 Chris Brunette, 608-348-4552
 OA Chapter Advisor:
 James Connors, 608-325-6495
 Platteville Merit Badge Midway:
 James Bussan, 608-568-3177,
bussanja@chorus.net
 Service Hours:
 Sheri Baird, 608-527-5068
 Training: (Open)
Vice-Chair Venturing:
 Kevin Olson, 608-723-6250
Uniform Closet:
 Jeff Everson, 608-328-4269
District Commissioner: Nichole Wiest,
608-778-9124, ahscouting@tds.net
 Roundtable Commissioners:
 Cub Scout:
 Tara Bauer,
 Peggy Miles,
 Boy Scout: Andy Elkins, 608-527-2962
District Executive:
Matt Ohms, 920-723-5999
matt.ohms@scouting.org

Arrowhead District Calendar

November

- 26 Thanksgiving Day, council service center closed
- 27 Council service center closed

December

- 2 District Committee meeting
- 8 Courier copy due -- Printed edition for January through April events
- 9 District Commissioners meeting
- 9 Roundtable
- 20 Order of the Arrow meeting, Monroe
- 24 Christmas Eve, council service center closed
- 25 Christmas Day, council service center closed
- 31 New Year's Eve, council service center closed

January 2016

- 1 New Year's Day, council service center closed
- 5 Courier copy due – Internet edition for February through April events
- 6 District Committee meeting
- 13 District Commissioners meeting
- 13 Roundtable
- 16 Order of the Arrow Banquet
- 17 Order of the Arrow meeting, Platteville
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr., Day, council service center closed
- 21 Council Coordinated Committee meetings

February

- 3 District Committee meeting
- 6 Merit Badge Midway #1
- 7-13 Scout Week
- 9 Courier copy due – Internet edition for March through May events
- 10 District Commissioners meeting
- 10 Roundtable
- 13 Merit Badge Midway #2
- 15 President's Day, council service center closed
- 20 Merit Badge Midway #3
- 21 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting -- Monroe
- 26-28 Venturing Blast, Camp Lowden
- 27 Scouting for Food flyer distribution
- 27 Merit Badge Midway #4

March

- 2 District Committee meeting
- 5 Scouting for Food Day – pick up food
- 5 Trainer's EDGE
- 6 Council Recognition Dinner
- 8 Courier copy due – printed edition April through August events
- 9 District Commissioner Staff meeting
- 20 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting -- Platteville
- 25 Good Friday, council service center closed
- 27 Easter

If I cannot do great things,
 I can do small things
 in a great way.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Service

The key to success, in any line or endeavor, lies in service. Those who seek fame or fortune by any other route are always disappointed.

Waite Phillips
Donor of Philmont Scout Ranch

2016 Boy Scout Ski/Board Nights



January 4TH & 20TH

February 8TH

March 2ND

4 pm - 9 pm

SKIING/SNOWBOARDING ROCKS:

- Skiing and snowboarding are exciting winter activities
- Great opportunity for your scout troop to have fun learning a new winter sport

HELPFUL INFORMATION:

- Scout leader must make the reservation and must be present and pay with one check when the group arrives at Sundown Mountain
- Open to any scouting group and family members that are 9 years of age and older.
- The group lesson is for children 9 years of age or older and is offered at 5pm & 7pm. **Contact the group office for lesson options for children under 9 years of age and they must have a parent who knows how to ski on the hill with them at all times.**
- Plan to arrive at least ½ hour prior to the lesson time.
- Pre-registration is required and needs to be completed one week prior to the ski night by the scout leader. NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE TAKEN ON THE NIGHTS OF THE OUTINGS!**
- Plan to provide your own group supervision at check in and throughout the night.
- Please provide a copy of this to all scouts/families that will be attending!

LIFT PASS: \$15

HELMETS : \$5

LIFT PASS?SKI RENTAL/GROUP LESSON: \$20

LIFT PASS/SNOWBOARD RENTAL/GROUP LESSON: \$26



Please call the group office at 888-747-3872 extension 143 or email sdemkier@sundownmtn.com to make a reservation for some fun evenings!



**DUBUQUE
FIGHTING SAINTS**

Scout Night with the Dubuque Fighting Saints

Saturday January 9, 2016
Mystique Ice Center - 7:05 PM

Schedule:

Tickets will be distributed to group leaders before game.
(5:30-7:05-Will Call Open to pick up tickets)

7:05- Game Time

After the game – Autograph session

***Make sure to bring your camera to capture these Scouting memories!!!

Option to wear Scout uniform to the game!

Registration Deadline December 28, 2015:

Late registrations will be accepted* through January 8th but will be over the phone only with Elizabeth Peterson at 563-587-2224 or in person at the Fighting Saints Box Office at the Mystique Community Ice Center.

*Late registrations will incur a \$3 fee per ticket/package.

The will-call table on the day of the event will close at 8:05 p.m. All materials including game tickets are non-refundable. Any tickets or materials not picked up by 8:05 p.m. will be forfeited, unless other arrangements are made.

Premium Package

- Game Ticket
- Dinner Ticket (Hot Dog & Pop)
- Scout Night Hockey Patch
- Fighting Saints Gift
- Game Program with rosters and stats
- Post Game Autograph Session
- One Chuck-a-Puck for post-game contest

*Game Ticket only may be purchased for \$10***

A Portion of the proceeds to benefit Blackhawk Area Council

****Make checks payable to Dubuque Fighting Saints.**

***** Send forms to:**

**1800 Admiral Sheehy Dr Dubuque IA
52001**



FIGHTING SAINTS SCOUT NIGHT Saturday, January 9, 2016

<p>Contact Information :</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>District / Unit / Unit # _____</p>	<p>Scout Night Premium Package \$30 x ___ = \$ _____</p> <p>Game Only \$10 x ___ = \$ _____ (2 and under FREE)</p> <p>Total Due: \$ _____</p> <p>Payment Method:</p> <p>Cash _____</p> <p>Check No. _____</p> <p>Unit Account No. _____</p> <p>Credit/Debit Card No. _____</p> <p>Card Exp. _____</p> <p>Card Type: Visa Master Card Discover American Express</p>
<p>Orders may be done as a unit or as an individual. Orders may be done over the phone or in person at the Fighting Saints Office at the Mystique Community Ice Center. Please Contact Elizabeth Peterson at 563-587-2224. Seat location subject to availability.</p>	

ScoutReach District

Serving Youth in Inner-City Rockford

Web Site: www.BlackhawkScouting.org/Scoutreach

Scoutreach District Directory

Chairman: (open)
District Commissioner: (Open)
 Finance Chairman: Committee (open)
 Members:

Bill Allen
 Victory Bell
 Roberto Cardenas
 David Gill
 Lloyd Hawks
 Terry Hahlen
 Rep. Charles Jefferson
 Officer Steve Jones
 Leslie Medrano
 Juan Muñiz
 Terry Nichols
 Roger Steder
 Calvin W. Squire
 Dr. Rudy Valdez
 Vicky Zamora

Scoutreach Coordinator
Terry Nichols, 397-0210

Program Aides:

Bill Allen
 Clifford Andrews
 Bobby Bowden
 Erica Collins
 Sean Lilly
 Terry Serrano
 Roger Steder

District Executive
Cannie Ware
815-397-0210
ThePup1@aol.com



Scoutreach District Calendar

November

- 26 Thanksgiving Day, council service center closed
 27 Council service center closed

December

- 5 Roller Skating party
 8 *Courier* deadline – January printed edition
 9 All Markets Committee meeting
 24 Christmas Eve, council service center closed
 25 Christmas Day, council service center closed
 31 New Year's Eve, council service center closed

January 2016

- 1 New Year's Day, council service center closed
 5 *Courier* copy due – Internet edition for February through April events
 5 All Markets Committee meeting
 9 ScoutReach pinewood derby -- Riverdahl -- Nashold -- St. Bridget's
 16 Order of the Arrow Banquet
 18 Martin Luther King Jr., Day, council service center closed
 21 Council Coordinated Committee meetings
 23 Swim & Gym

February

- 6 ScoutReach Blue and Gold Banquet
 7-13 Scout Week
 9 *Courier* copy due – Internet edition for March through May events
 9 All Markets Committee meeting
 13 Pinewood Derby Workshop
 15 President's Day, council service center closed
 24 St. Elizabeth Pinewood Derby
 27 Scouting for Food flyer distribution

March

- 1 Lathrop Pinewood Derby
 3 McIntosh Pinewood derby
 5 Scouting for Food Day – pick up food
 6 Council Recognition Dinner
 8 *Courier* copy due – printed edition April through August events
 8 All Markets Committee meeting
 12 Scoutreach Pinewood Derby
 25 Good Friday, council service center closed
 27 Easter

The Cub Scout Word-of-the-Month for November Is "Helpful"

A Scout cares about other people. He willingly volunteers to help others without expecting payment or reward.

You promise in the Scout Oath to help other people at all times. The Scout motto asks you to be prepared. The Scout slogan reminds you to do a Good Turn daily. These three ideals work together: you promise to help, you help because you have learned how, and you do help because you care about people.

Scouts want the best for everyone, and act to make that happen. While a Scout might work for pay, he does not expect to receive money for being helpful. A Good Turn that is done in the hope of getting a tip or a favor is not a Good Turn at all.



Discussing Word-of-the-Month at Salvation Army



Discussing Word-of-the-Month at Ellis School



ScoutReach boys showing-off their bookmarks during the meeting at Ellis School on October 1, 2015.



A ScoutReach activity for the week of October 12-16; making spider webs by tossing a ball of yarn back and forth across a circle formation; leader Bobby got caught in one. This is Pack 223, 19-boys.



This is ScoutReach Pack 301 at Beyer School

Showing off their paper bag masks



ScoutReach Pack 223 at Ellis School.