

The Blackhawk **COURIER**

A Publication of Blackhawk Area Council

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Sunday, March 6, 2016
Radisson Convention Center
200 S. Bell School Road
Rockford, Illinois 61107

You Are Invited Blackhawk Area Council 2016 Adult and Youth Recognition Dinner



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

Menu:

Grilled Chicken Breast with Chardonnay Sauce or
Sirloin Steak with Cabernet Mushroom Sauce or
Mushroom Ravioli
Salad, Vegetable, Potato, Rolls & Butter, Dessert, Coffee, Tea

\$30.00 per Person for Dinner
\$35.00 to Sponsor an Eagle Scout
No Refunds

Register by February 19, 2016
A reservation must be made to
be seated for the meal.
No walk-ins

To Register

Go to BlackhawkScouting.org and click on "Annual Dinner"
to make your reservation and payment.

Please contact Emily at 815-397-0210 or Emily.Rinaldi@scouting.org if you have questions.

Blackhawk Area Council Adult and Youth Recognition Dinner

The annual Council Adult and Youth Recognition Dinner will held on Sunday, March 6, 2016. Registration/social gathering will begin at 1:45 p.m. with dinner served at 2:30 p.m. Reservations are due by February 19. The purpose of the Council Recognition Dinner is to recognize and thank all adult volunteer Scouters who have given their time to provide a quality Scouting program to the youth of our communities, and also to recognize the youth who have distinguished themselves with achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

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

The Council Recognition Dinner is for all adult leaders within the council, not just council and district level Scouters, and all Scouts who achieved the Eagle Scout rank in 2015 and their parents.

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

Council Calendar

February

- 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
 19 Cub Scout Event Day at Midway Village Museum
 20 Palm Sunday
 25 Good Friday, council service center closed
 27 Easter

April

- 5 *Courier* copy due -- Internet edition for May through August events
 9-10 Council Pinewood Derby
 21 Council Annual Meeting
 21 Council Coordinated Committee Meetings
 22-24 U. S. Grant Pilgrimage, Galena
 30 - May 1 Canyon Camp Work Weekend

May

- 7 Commissioner Planning Conference
 10 *Courier* copy due -- Internet edition for May through August events
 30 Memorial Day -- Council service center closed



Spring Popcorn Sale

Dates:

Popcorn Material Distribution - February Roundtables
 Confirm Unit Participation – By February 28
 Show N' Sell Orders Due – Wednesday, March 2
 Show N' Sell Delivery – Friday, March 11
 Sale Begins – Saturday, March 12
 Sale Ends – orders and spreadsheets due to district kernels – Sunday, April 10
 Popcorn Delivery/unit checks due at pickup – Thursday through Saturday, April 28-30 (Varies by district)
 Unit Checks Deposited – Wednesday, May 18

After the retirement of our good friend and Scouter, Tom Brooks, the new contact for the Council Popcorn Fundraising Campaign will be Field Director Dane Boudreau. He can be most easily reached by email at dane.boudreau@scouting.org.

As for the Spring sale, all of the current information has been posted to www.blackhawkscouting.org/popcorn with links to important documents and a downloadable Leader's Guide. As we receive information from each district kernel about delivery locations, contacts, etc. that information will be posted as well as the winners of prizes throughout the sale.

We hope all of our Scouting units will consider the 2016 Spring Popcorn Sale and help our programs grow in 2016. Materials for the sale were distributed at your February roundtables. If you did not make it to roundtable, please be sure to inform your district popcorn kernel or district executive as soon as possible of your unit's participation and need for materials.

Thanks and let's have great 2016 Spring Popcorn Sale!

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.

What Is Your Unit Doing?

We like to print articles and photos of your events. The events do not have to be major -- good photos from regular meetings are very acceptable.

Good photos show Scouts actively doing something. Move in to take close-ups of them participating in your program.

"Space" is not an issue with the Internet editions -- we can just add another page!

So send your copy and photos (.jpg -- in separate attachments) to BACCourier@juno.com.

Double Knot...What Is It? And How Do We Use It?

You may have heard the term “Double Knot” or online registration. As a council, Blackhawk Area Council has moved to online registration for our events, activities, training events, and camp. Double Knot is our online registration software that we are also incorporating into our website. Right now we are going through a transition period between our website and our new Double Knot system. There are a few ways that you can access the system.

1. Follow the new Council Calendar link that appears on our council's home page. If you know the date of the event, or the approximate time, this may be the fastest and easiest way for you to find more information and access the online registration. The calendar has a dropdown menu to assist you in looking at specific categories of events (by district, OA, training, camp, and council-wide). To see all events everywhere you would select the “All Organizations” option.
2. If you have previously used the online registration system, you may have created a profile (username and password). You may logon to www.doubleknot.com to access your profile at any time, and there you can see and modify your registrations.
3. Units using Double Knot: It is highly suggested that each unit have a Double Knot profile that is linked to an email for that unit.

How? – Many units have an email address that stays with the unit – for example pack123@gmail.com – so that when the leadership changes the only change in pack communication is passing on the credentials of accessing the email. If your unit doesn't do this, please look into it because it helps with transitions immensely.

Why? – When your unit creates a profile in Double Knot, it will store the information for your Scouts after you enter them the first time. The next time your unit logs in to register for an event you do not need to enter in the individuals again. Rather you simply select the people you want to register. This will save time all around. Please be aware that each activity / event / training / camp may have additional information they will ask about each participant that will not be saved, but the names and contact information will be there for the next time your unit registers for an event.

Does this mean I shouldn't / can't have a profile for myself / family? – Absolutely you should! Since your unit doesn't register as a unit for everything you may and should have your own profile for those individual registrations as well, and then your information will be saved for the next time you register individually as well.

ALSO – Unit and Individual profiles are great for accessing receipts or details of your registration that you may need in the future!

4. **Camp – Summer Camps and weekend rentals** – For all summer camp (Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts) the registration is online and open (Cub Scout and Webelos Resident Camp set to open March 1, 2016, but links and information are there). Day camp is on its ways well.

Weekend Camp rentals – Please look for the Reserve Canyon Camp or Reserve Camp Lowden links on the home page and camping tab. All information can be accessed on the Camping tab of www.blackhawkscouting.org

5. I am running an event, so how can I get my event on the calendar and have online registration? – Please go to your district executive to input all the district trainings and events. All others please see your event committee's chair OR your Council Program Director Emily Rinaldi! (Cell: 847-417-9426 or Emily.Rinaldi@scouting.org)
6. What else can Double Knot do? – Newsletters, online document storage, surveys, site brander for our website, and much more!

Overall Double Knot is a wonderful addition to our council that may take some getting used to but will aid us in better communication, being more efficient, and help us all to deliver a better program to the youth in our council.

Thank you,
Emily Rinaldi
Blackhawk Area Council
Program Director

Camp Card Fundraiser Coming to Wanchanagi and Sycamore Districts in late Spring

The Blackhawk Area Council will be piloting a new fundraiser for our Scouts this Spring that has been a big success already in many councils across the country.

Camp Cards.

This is a great, easy option to add to your existing product sales and full details are included in this article below but we encourage every unit in Wanchanagi and Sycamore to participate to earn funds for your Scouts and programs.

In addition to the information below, more will be out soon as to details of sales dates, leader's information, etc. To give you a glimpse of what will be on the card, we have the following vendors that have partnered with us and will be represented (varies by district): Culver's, Chik-Fil-A, McSports, Kelley's Market, Country Donuts, Colonial Café, Buddy's Pizza, Papa John's, Tom and Jerry's, and more!

What Is a Camp Card?

A camp card is a card containing multiple discounts to local businesses. The back of the card has permanent discounts that can be used

again and again during the promotion period. Additionally, there are 2 or 3 tear-off discounts that are for a once-only use.

Overall, the camp card is a way for Scouts to earn their way to summer camp and high adventure trips with the easy tag line “Would you like to buy a camp card for \$5 and help me go to camp?”

How Much Does It Cost the Customer, and What Is the Scout Commission?

Camp cards are sold by the Scouts and cost the customer \$5. The unit will keep \$2.50 for each card and the council receives \$2.50. The council also covers the development and cost of the cards.

What Does It Cost Our Unit?

There is no cost to the unit or Scouts. The unit will decide how many camp cards they would like to receive from council. At the end of the sale, the unit simply returns the cards not purchased. For any cards not purchased, the troop will owe the council \$2.50 for unreturned cards.

Tom Brooks Receives St. George Award

Tom Brooks, recently retired professional Scouter with Blackhawk Area Council, was presented with the St. George Award at the Scout Sunday ceremony at St. Peter Cathedral in Rockford.

Congratulations, Tom!



Tom Brooks with Bishop David Malloy



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!

Please note that the Swamp Base Trek is an excellent opportunity for parents to experience Scouting 1:1 with their son/daughter. There are no restrictions on the number of youth and adults that go on the trek, as long as the group is at least 50% youth. Unlike Philmont, Jamboree, Sea Base, etc., this activity is perfect for a parent/Scout adventure.



**Blackhawk Area Council
Annual Meeting
April 21, 2016
6:30 p.m.
Pecatonica High School
1300 Main Street,
Pecatonica 61063**

Council President Jon Krause has announced that the Annual Meeting for the Blackhawk Area Council will be conducted on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at the Pecatonica High School located at 1300 Main Street, Pecatonica, Illinois 61063.

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

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

**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.



**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
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

Number of Campouts Required for First Class Will Double in 2016

Get ready to roll up the tent, stuff the sleeping bag and grab the flashlight. Because in 2016, Boy Scouts will do more camping than ever.

In a nod to the BSA's century-old emphasis on preparing young people to spend time outdoors, the number of campouts required for First Class in Boy Scouting will double beginning in 2016.

This ensures that First Class Scouts will have enough camping experience to develop and improve on the outdoor skills promoted in Scouting.

Although the number of troop or patrol activities remains the same (10 total for First Class), the number of campouts required has doubled — one for Tenderfoot, two more for Second Class, and three more for First Class — for a total of six overnight campouts. That's up from three overnight campouts.



Scouting for Food 2016

Scouting for Food is right around the corner. On February 27th Scouts will distribute door hanger. Food Collection Day is March 5th when Scouts will return to pick up food for local food pantries.

You can view this year's "Scouting for Food Good Turn for America Unit Participation Packet" on the council's Web site -- BlackhawkScouting.org.

Please see your unit commissioner or district executive for further information.

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!



National Summertime Pack Award Plan Now for Your Pack to Earn It

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

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

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

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

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



U. S. Grant Pilgrimage One Nation Indivisible April 22-24 Galena, Illinois

Celebrating its 62nd Anniversary, the U. S. Grant Pilgrimage is a weekend full of Scouting activities. Take part in the fun, activity, and friendship of Scouting with Scouts from around the region. The number one annual Scouting event for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturers.

Register early and reserve your campsite soon for the best locations, as space is limited. Then come and take part in one of the Midwest's biggest and best Scouting adventures.

This year's theme, One Nation Indivisible, highlights the steps taken to reunite the Country after the Civil War and Galena's role in that.

Pilgrimage Events

The weekend will be full of activities:

- Trail Hike – Participants will receive a map with 16-18 questions. The answers to these questions are placed at historically significant places around Galena. The hike is approximately 5 miles and takes 2-3 hours to complete. Hikers who complete the trail hike are able to purchase a trail medal at the Trading Post
- Bucket Brigade – A team competition where the team puts out “the fire” by passing buckets of water down the line. Schedule a time at Registration between 9-11 a.m.
- Parade
- History Hunt – There will be changes coming to this activity, it will be similar to the Trail Hike, but focused on the Generals. When complete come to the Trading Post to purchase the hat pin.
- Visiting the museums and other historical sites of Galena

- Cub Scout activity area (sponsored by the Order of the Arrow)
- Patch Trading
- Civil War, Revolutionary Re-enactors
- Civil War Battle at 11:30
- Portable Climbing wall.

Original Craftsmanship Demonstrations will be held at Grant Park. Live historical exhibits will include pottery, spinning, wood carving, clay molded animals, blacksmith, broom making, buck skinner, neckerchief slide carving.

For complete details and registration form, go to BlackhawkScouting.org/Pilgrimage and check out the map and Leader Book tab.

Museum Tours – Free with Wristband

Every registered person will receive a wristband for the various places of interest. Leaders must make sure that their Scouts receive and wear this wristband. If the Scouts do not wear the wristband, they will need to pay the full museum price instead of being admitted for free! No exceptions will be made on the admission fees. This includes adults! All youth and adults MUST register.

Check-in

Check-in will be at Galena High School, 1206 North Franklin St, Galena IL, 61036.

- Friday, April 22 – 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 23 -- 8:00 a.m. to noon

Registration Information

Pilgrimage Fee

- \$7.00 per participant (including adults) who register and pay before April 1, 2015.
- \$10.00 per participant after April 1, 2016.

Pre-registration must be postmarked by April 1, 2016.

Registrations are accepted by sending the registration form to the Blackhawk Area Council service center – Blackhawk Area Council, 2820 McFarland Rd, Rockford IL 61107. Or online at USGrantPilgrimage.org.

Registered participants will receive:

- A colorful patch
- Wristband for free admission to area attractions
- Pilgrimage Trail literature
- History Hunt literature
- Every participant must register with the Pilgrimage. Registration will be checked.

By pre-registering, you assure yourself a reduced price for admission at the various points of interest in Galena, and \$3.00 per person off the registration fee.

Please Note: There are no refunds of registration fees. Registration fees can be transferred to another youth or adult.



Canny Ware, Dan Persinger, and John Messley made the first presentation of "Abilities Awareness" at the White Eagle Merit Badge Day

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 disabilitiesawareness@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 disabilitiesawareness@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.

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We like to print articles and photos of your events. The events do not have to be major -- good photos from regular meetings are very acceptable.

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ILLINOIS RAILWAY
MUSEUM
&
BLACKHAWK AREA
COUNCIL

present

Scout Day 2016
May 13-15 2016



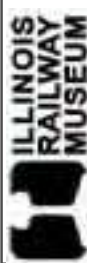
Save the Date
More Info
Coming Soon



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Static Displays of buses, trolley, trains and equipment through the ages.
- Train Rides
- Electric Bus Rides
- Railroad Merit Badge
- Ga-Ga Ball
- Operation Life Saving
- Rail Spike Driving
- Old Time Signal Display
- Coupling Replay
- 'TOOT 'n Trestle Train town
- 450 pieces Railroad equipment
- Blacksmithing
- Evening Train Ride
- Climbing towers
- RC WW II tanks and cars
- Model railroad
- Robot Battles
- American's Hero's Display
- Camp Grant Display
- Evening Movie Area Show
- Fire Trucks
- Entertainment
- Fire equipment displays
- Dutch oven cooking demonstration
- Cub Scout, Boy Scout, & Venturing Related Activities
- K9-Police demonstrations
- Geocaching/GPS
- Water Bottle Rockets
- and lots more fun!!!!

These may change as features are confirmed and/or added. For the latest updates check out www.irm.org or blackhawkscouting.org



WHAT IS Scout Day at the Illinois Railway Museum 2016?



An outdoor **Encampment** for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Venturers, and their leaders. The Encampment will feature IRM grounds and equipment and displays. More than 2,000 Webelos, Boy Scouts and Ventures will encamp Jamboree style, on the grounds of the museum from Friday night through Sunday. They will be joined by an estimated 1,000 scouts and family members on Saturday for a day of exciting interactive activities.

WHO:

Scout Days at the IRM is open to all registered Scouts and their families, general public.

WHERE:

The grounds of the America's Largest Railroad Museum, Illinois Railway Museum The Illinois Railroad Museum is located in Union, Illinois.

WHEN:

May 13, 14 and 15 2016; Friday Evening through Sunday Morning. Most of the activities and displays will occur on Saturday 9:00 am. - 5:00 pm.



Saturday Visitor Option:

Come join us for a full day of fun and excitement!

Any registered Scout and their family is welcome to attend. Come with your Pack, Troop, Crew, or come as a family. Just make sure you are there! (Girl Scout siblings and parent leaders are encouraged to wear their uniforms, too!) Food vendors are available throughout the day.

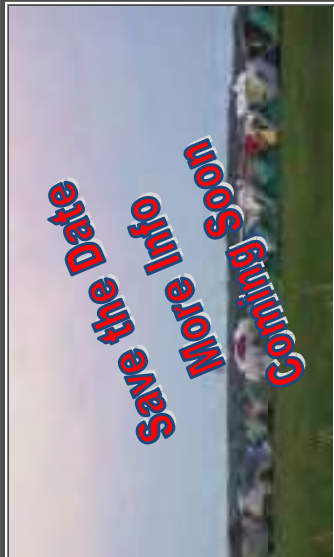
COST:

Saturday Only Participants:

- If paid on or prior to 4/20/16 the cost is coming soon a person.
- If paid after 4/20/16 the cost is coming soon a person.

Saturday Only Participants Receive:

- IRM—Scout Day Encampment Patch
- Admission to all Museum, attractions, activities and displays from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.



Overnight Camping Option:

Camping Overnight is available for all Boy Scout Troops and Venturing Crews. Webelos Scouts may camp with a Boy Scout Troop. Units will camp in jamboree style sites, with scouts from all twelve counties of the Blackhawk Area Council and surrounding Councils intermingled in each sub-camp. Venture Crews will be assigned to a separate sub-camp.

COST:

Overnight Participants:

- If paid on or prior to 4/20/16 the cost is coming soon a person.
- If paid after 4/20/16 the cost is coming soon a person.

Overnight Participants Receive:

- IRM—Scout Day Encampment Patch
- Admission to all Museum, attractions, activities and displays
- Saturday Night Movie in the yard
- Evening Train Ride
- Sunday morning Worship Service

The New Boy Scout Rank Requirements

The Boy Scout rank requirements will be phased in. Boys registered in a troop, team, crew, or ship on or prior to December 31, 2015, may choose to switch to new requirements on January 1, 2016. For those who choose not to switch right away, here are the rules:

- Boys registered in a troop on or before December 31, 2015, who are working on Tenderfoot through First Class ranks, may continue to use the old requirements through 2016, but they must convert to the new requirements upon attaining the First Class rank. As long as they have started on Tenderfoot requirements, they do not have to “go back” and earn the Scout joining badge or the Scout rank.
- Boys registered in a troop, team, crew, or ship on or before December 31, 2015, who have completed the First Class rank may complete the rank they are currently working on with the old requirements through 2016, but then must convert to the new requirements for subsequent ranks.
- Any boy registering in a troop for the first time on or after January 1, 2016, must use the new requirements, beginning with Scout rank.

Beginning January 1, 2017, new requirements must be used for all ranks earned.

What are some of the new requirements that might affect troop programming?

- The camping requirement has doubled for First Class. Previously, three overnight camping trips were required, but six overnight trips will now be required for First Class rank advancement.
- Tenderfoot fitness requirements have been revised, including a one-mile rather than ¼-mile walk/run.
- Service hours are required at each rank except Scout. Half of the service hours at Life must be conservation related.
- GPS navigation is included at First Class in addition to map and compass.

The old rank requirements will be phased out entirely on December 31, 2016. Thus, January 1, 2017 ends the transition, and on that date, all Boy Scouts will be working under the new requirements.

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

New Position of Responsibility: Outdoor Ethics Guide

The new Boy Scout requirements introduce a new position of responsibility. Outdoor Ethics Guide will replace the Leave No Trace Trainer position. The following job description is provided by the BSA Outdoor Ethics task force:

The outdoor ethics guide helps the troop plan and conduct an outdoor program that emphasizes effectively practicing the Outdoor Code, the Leave No Trace principles, and the Tread Lightly! principles. The guide works to help Scouts improve their outdoor ethics decision-making skills to help minimize impacts as they hike, camp, and participate in other outdoor activities. In particular, he should support Scouts who are working to complete the relevant requirements for the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks.

How does a Scout get position of responsibility credit if he is in the middle of his tenure as Leave No Trace Trainer on December 31, 2015? The unit should simply credit him with time served in that position, and then begin his tenure as Outdoor Ethics Guide on January 1, 2016.



Photography Merit Badge: New Focus for an Old Favorite

While the Photography merit badge is not a new addition to the BSA merit badge library, the technological world of digital cameras, pixels, online printers, and photo software has made an old subject new again. The field of photography has undergone major changes in this age of computer technology. Today's processes go beyond simply capturing family memories, Scouting activities, vacation experiences, or other special events. New technologies offer new chances to be creative. As a result, requirements for the Photography merit badge are being revised to keep up with this new world of technology.

The “upgraded” merit badge requirements and supporting pamphlet still contain lessons about composition, how to choose a subject, the proper use of lighting, and depth of field, but also encourage a Scout's creativity by introducing stop action and blur motion techniques and the understanding of color as ways to help the Scout make his photographs into more than snapshots. The Scout will learn how to tell a story through pictures, while being led into the fun and discovery aspects of photography.

Scouts will find new images in the merit badge pamphlet, as well as new art work throughout the text of the publication. There also is a balanced discussion of the ethical side of photography relevant to the new social media world in which our youth live. Although the “phone” camera is mentioned because most of our Scouts own one, its use is not the essence of the skills being taught in the merit badge. There is a real difference between a thoughtful photograph and a grab shot, especially a “selfie.”

Appropriately, the new Photography merit badge pamphlet will be available in a digital version, which will contain all the content of the print version, as well as videos and “how to” resources that cannot be included in a print version. Both the printed and digital versions of the Photography merit badge pamphlet are slated for release in the first quarter of 2016.



Revised Cooking Merit Badge

Eagle-required Cooking merit badge's 2016 requirements are now in effect.

Requirements for the Eagle-required Cooking merit badge have been revised for 2016, with better organization, fewer redundancies, and a more-focused approach.

This is part of the BSA's continuing effort to improve its crop of 136 existing merit badges.

The Cooking merit badge now has seven requirements, down from eight, and each requirement now bears a headline that helps Scouts know what it's all about. Here are the seven requirement subjects:

- Health and safety
- Nutrition
- Cooking basics
- Cooking at home
- Camp cooking
- Trail and backpacking meals
- Food-related careers

You can find the updated Cooking merit badge requirements in the 2016 *Boy Scout Requirements* book or at Scouting.org/meritbadges.

This is the second time the Cooking merit badge has been updated in the past two years — a “really unusual circumstance,” said Scott Berger, chairman of the BSA's Merit Badge Maintenance Task Force.

That means there could be three versions of requirements in use right now: one prior to the 2014 changes, one with the changes that began in 2015, and a third with the changes that began in 2016.

Once a Scout begins working on a merit badge with one set of requirements, he generally may finish with that set of requirements. Or, he likes, he may switch to the new requirements.

If a Boy Scout hasn't yet started work toward the Cooking merit badge, he'll need to use the new set of requirements, as confirmed by section 7.0.4.3 of the Guide to Advancement: “Once new or revised merit badge requirements appear in the Boy Scout Requirements book, which is released each January, any Scout just beginning work on a merit badge must use the requirements as stated there.”

In other words, a Scout beginning work on Cooking merit badge on or after January 1, 2016, should use the 2016 requirements.

Health and Safety Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2015

The Fall/Winter *Health and Safety Newsletter* is now available. Go to Scouting.org/healthsafety to read the following articles:

- Take Steps to Prevent a Traumatic Brain Injury
- Recognize Concussion Symptoms
- Answers to Some Popular Myths about Lightning
- Updates to National Aquatics Code Being Reviewed
- NCAP: New Programs and Council Risk Reviews
- Be Smart During Sledding Outings this Winter



Soil and Water Conservation Merit Badge

Boone County Conservation District

Saturday, April 9, 10a.m. to 2 p.m.

Minimum: 5 Scouts, Maximum: 20 Scouts

Cost: \$5 per Scout/in-county; \$8 per Scout/out-of-county

For Registration: Contact Tina Dawson at tdawson@bccdil.org

The Boone County Conservation District will be offering the Soil and Water Conservation merit badge on April 9, 2016.

BCCD is coordinating with Klehm and Burpee to offer badges that are eligible for the Hornaday Award

Bring: lunch, water bottle, work gloves, blue merit badge card

Be dressed to work outside cutting brush after lunch. (Required for badge completion – no exceptions.)

Presented by Boone County Conservation District, 603 N. Appleton Road, Belvidere, 815-547-7935

Registration fee must be pre-paid.

Learn about conservation and how our natural resources can be cared for properly. This merit badge is a requirement for the Hornaday Badge and the World Conservation Award



Astronomy Merit Badge Workshop

Burpee Museum

Friday, February 26 to

Saturday, February 27

\$35 per person

Pre-registration and payment is required

We have an Astronomy Badge workshop coming up here at the Burpee Museum. It starts at 7 p.m. on Friday, February 26, and runs until 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 27.

The cost is \$35.00 per person and pre-registration and payment is required.

There are several pre-requisites for this one, so don't wait till the last minute to sign up. You can register by calling the museum and speaking Nikki, Lily or Alexis at the Front Desk, see the phone number below.

For those of you who have already registered, please remember to bring those homework sheets and Blue Cards. Also bring warm winter wear. If it's at all clear, we'll plan to be outside with the telescope. Check-in will start about 6:45 Friday night. See you then.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Lisa Johnson
815-965-3433

BSA Now Offers 20 Interactive Digital Merit Badge Pamphlets

First there were four. Then eight. Now the list of interactive digital merit badge pamphlets has ballooned to 20.

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

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

- 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
- Sustainability
- Environmental Science
- Citizenship in the World
- Citizenship in the Community
- Personal Management
- Lifesaving
- Emergency Preparedness



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.



Summer 2016 Spaces Available at 3 of 4 BSA High-Adventure Bases

Philmont, Northern Tier and the Summit Bechtel Reserve still have openings for summer 2016. At Florida Sea Base, summer 2016 is full, and the lottery for summer 2017 spaces is now closed.

Trips to these hiking, canoeing, action-adventure and sailing destinations often fill up a year and half in advance, so the news this week that slots for 2016 are still available is worth celebrating.

But you'll have to hurry, because these spots — like summer itself — won't last long.

For information about openings and reservations

Philmont Scout Ranch – email camping@philmontscoutranch.org

Northern Tier – call 218-365-4811 or email info@ntier.org

Summit Bechtel Reserve – call 304-465-2800 or email summit.program@scouting

Welcome the Webelos Scouts



Now is the time troops should be prepared to welcome Webelos Scouts into the troop. Here are a few reminders for pack and troop leaders.

- Confirm transition date, time, location, and who will be attending.
- Some troops present a neckerchief or handbook at the cross-over.
- Troops should invite parents to a special meeting to learn about the troop and Boy Scouting. Provide them with written information and calendar for the year.
- Older Boy Scouts should be assigned as troop guides to work with the new patrol for the first six months until they become part of an established patrol.
- Older Boy Scouts should be assigned as instructors. This troop leadership role is valuable in recognizing Scouts who can teach a skill. It keeps them active, and can help troop meetings by providing multiple skill teaching which matches a Scout's interest or advancement need.
- Conduct an induction ceremony within 30 days. Present the Scout badge. Plan it well and make it meaningful.
- Monitor participation and advancement. Make sure new Scouts are welcome and involved. Talk to them often.
- Give new parents simple tasks to get them involved. Make them feel welcome, too.

And enjoy having new Scouts in the troop!

Scoutmaster Conference Myths

Myth No. 1: *The Scoutmaster (unit leader) conference is the last step before a board of review.*

Myth No. 2: *A Scout can "fail" a Scoutmaster conference and be held back from a board of review.*

Topic 4.2.3.5 in the *Guide to Advancement* breaks both these myths. "While it makes sense to hold [a Scoutmaster or unit leader conference] after other requirements for a rank are met, it is not required that it be the last step before the board of review." Some leaders hold more than one conference along the way, and any of them can count toward the requirement.

Requirements for each rank state, "Participate in a Scoutmaster conference." This is not a pass/fail requirement. Topic 4.2.3.5 states, "[The conference] is not a 'test.' Requirements do not say he must 'pass' a conference." If an Eagle Scout candidate's conference is denied or the unit leader refuses to sign a candidate's Eagle application, this becomes grounds for requesting a board of review under disputed circumstances (See *Guide to Advancement* topic 8.0.3.2).

A Scoutmaster conference should not become just another requirement for rank advancement. It should be a rewarding opportunity for a unit leader to form a bond with each member, whether advancing or not. It is more about using the Scouting method of positive adult association than it is about using the method of advancement.

Location is important to a good conference. While virtually any place that supports BSA Youth Protection guidelines is acceptable, some settings provide for more relaxed conversation. A unit leader may find that conferences held during outings are less subject to interruption than those held during regular meetings.

When we examine the four steps to advancement, the unit leader conference is the first part of the "Scout Is Reviewed" step. The second part is the board of review. However, neither is a retest of skills. A unit leader should plan conferences carefully. Trust is a vital element. Listening is another. Hearing about the Scout's life outside troop activities is just as important as his experiences in the unit. Emphasizing the Scout Oath and Scout Law, setting goals, promoting additional responsibility, sharing ideas, and providing positive reinforcement should be reflected upon.

Alumni Alive!

Visit the National Web site – scouting.org/AlumniAlive! to receive the quarterly Alumni Alive! newsletter. There are articles about alumni happenings, program, alumni profiles, and much more.

Robotics at Auto Assembly Plant A YouTube Video of Robotics in Action

A recent video of robotics in action is available. The number and nature of manufacturing jobs will never be what they once were. Once upon a time this might have been called "science fiction."

Scouts today have the opportunity to study computer automation and other STEM-related programs.

Watch this video to see how the Tesla model S is made at the auto assembly plant in Fremont, California, and for a look at robotics in action.

http://www.youtube.com/embed/8_lfxPI5ObM?

Scouting Alumni

One of the most recently created programs in Scouting is the Scouting Alumni program. Having enjoyed almost sixty years in Scouting, I came to realize one great untapped resource in the Scouting program was those adults who had been involved in Scouting as a youth or an adult and were no longer participating. Well, the Scouting program has not only recognized the need for more adult involvement but has created the Scouting Alumni program to address the need.

I am pleased to be the Scouting Alumni coordinator for our council. With the help of a number of other volunteers we hope to grow our Scouting Alumni program so very adult who has ever been involved in the Boy Scouts of America or who might be interested in our program has access to regular newsletters, updates, emails, and opportunities to become involved or re-involved at whatever level they feel comfortable in.

To that end, if you wish to join the Blackhawk Area Council Scouting Alumni Association, please complete the form which can be found at BlackhawkScouting.org/alumni and send to the Blackhawk Area Council, 2820 McFarland Road, Rockford IL 61107. If you wish to join the National Scouting Alumni Association, go to scouting.org/alumni.

Finally, thank each of you for your help and support. Please call me at 815-965-2121 if you have any questions or suggestions.

Jef Heckinger
Scouting Alumni

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-of-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!



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.

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.



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?

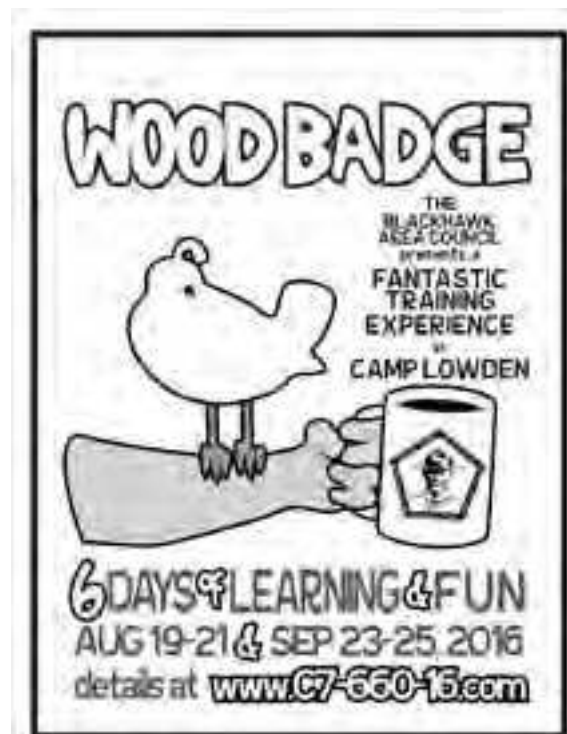
You can look for the Scout or Venturer who is confident in his or her leadership role. You can look for the Scout or Venturer who practices servant leadership, valuing the team above the individual.

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



Scout PodCasts for February

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

The CubCast and ScoutCast for February 2016 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.

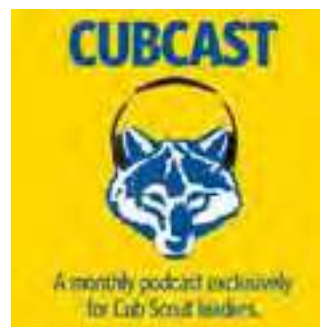


ScoutCast



The Scoutmaster's Minute

The Scoutmaster's Minute is a brief inspirational message, usually given at the end of a meeting or at the end of an activity in which you bring the whole group back together. But what makes a good Scoutmaster's Minute? Does it have to be at the end of the meeting? And does it have to be a minute? We asked these questions to John Duncan, council commissioner with the Northeast Illinois Council, who gave us a lot of food for thought.



CubCast



Cub Scouts and Shooting Sports

As CubCast co-host Aaron Derr says, "There's nothing like the first time you take your son to the shooting range, and after you hear them say, 'Always point the gun toward the target,' your kid is the first one who spins around and the gun spins around with him and everybody has to duck." So we thought it might be a good idea to have Dennis Kampa, author of the BALOO training, join us to explain how shooting sports can teach Cub Scouts valuable life lessons incorporating the Scout Oath and Law.

Cub Scout Event Day

At Midway Village Museum

Saturday, March 19, 2016

Session 1: 9:30am–12pm; Session 2: 1–3:30pm



Midway Village Museum invites **Tiger, Wolf, Bear, and Webelo Cub Scouts** to join us for a special event day just for scouts! Interactive activities led by the museum's education staff will be stationed throughout the museum's exhibits and historic village. Cub Scouts will play games, go on scavenger hunts, create craft projects, explore artifacts, discover the 1800s village, and much more! **Scouts can register for either the morning or afternoon session.**

Event activities will fulfill some requirements from these adventures:

Tiger: Family Stories and Tiger Tales; **Wolf:** Collections and Hobbies;

Bear: Paws for Action and World of Sound;

Webelo: Building a Better World and Project Family

A full list of requirements fulfilled will be provided upon registration.

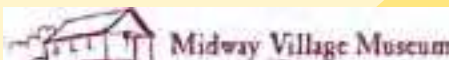
Fee: \$12 per scout, \$4 per adult

Fee includes all activities for either the morning or afternoon session, plus admission to the museum and village to enjoy before or after your session.

Scouts may attend as a group or individual, either scout leader or parent/guardian is required to be present.

Registration deadline is March 9, 2016. To register or for questions, contact Kristen Hoeker, Special Events Coordinator, at kristen.hoeker@midwayvillage.com or 815-397-9112, ext. 104.

A room may be reserved for your group to eat lunch if desired, reservation must be made by March 9th.



6799 Guilford Rd., Rockford, IL 61107

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. 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>.



2017 National Jamboree July 19 - 28, 2017

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.

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> as soon as possible. There are still positions open.

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.

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

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 ____

**ATTEND BOTH GAMES AND
RECEIVE FREE ROCKFORD
ICEHOGS T-SHIRTS!!***

Order by phone:

(815) 847-6383

Order by mail:

Rockford IceHogs

Attn: Ryan Woodrow
300 Elm St.

Rockford, IL 61101

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ROCKFORD ICEHOGS



**PROUD
AFFILIATES**

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.**

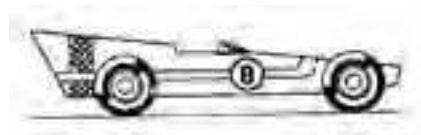
Questions?

Call Ryan at (815)847-6383

or email at woodrowr@icehogs.com

BMO HARRIS BANK CENTER

IT ALL STARTS HERE



Blackhawk Area Council Pinewood Derby

April 9-10, 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)

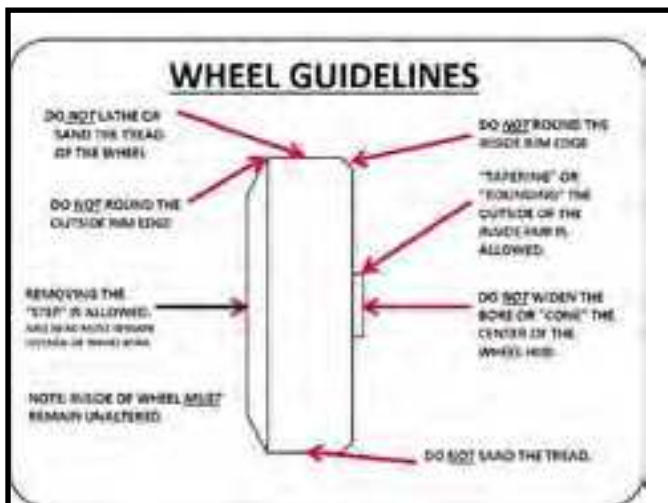
The Council Pinewood Derby Committee is asking each pack to submit the name of a person who would be willing to volunteer their time to help at the Council Derby. Help is needed for judging, registration and race starters. Total time commitment is approximately three hours.

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

1. **The car must be constructed using the materials supplied with regulation Grand Prix Kit #17006 or #17000.**
2. 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.
3. **Length:** Overall length shall not exceed 7 inches.
4. **Width:** Overall width shall not exceed 2¾ inches.
5. **Weight:** Maximum total weight of car, including driver, trims, weights, etc., shall be 5 ounces.
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. **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.**
9. **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 1¼ inches maximum in width.
10. **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.
11. **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.
12. **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.
13. **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.

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.

We Want Your Input

If you have any news/photos of your unit that you would like printed in the *Courier*, please contact Mary Anne Rounds at the council service center, 815-397-0210, or FAX to 815-397-7306.



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 # _____



Get Your Unit Ready With This Basic Emergency Preparedness Kit

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

Emergency Preparedness Award

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

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

How to Talk to Your Kids and Scouts

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

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

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



Who Will Inherit Your Values?

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

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

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

Who do you believe in?

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

What kind of legacy do you want to leave?

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

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

Forest Witcraft

STEM

Be a NOVA Counselor



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

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

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

How Do You Get Started?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Counselor Qualifications (And How Many Your Unit Needs)

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

You can be a counselor if you are

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

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



NOVA Awards Program

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

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

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

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

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

The SUPERNOVA Awards

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Every Pack, Troop, and Crew Needs a STEM Coordinator

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

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

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

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

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

Job Description

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

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

This may require:

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

Qualifications

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



How to Get Started

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

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

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

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

Next Steps

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

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

A Challenge

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

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

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

For more information, check out scouting.org/STEM

STEM

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

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



What Are the Nova Awards?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Integrate STEM Activities Into Your Unit's Annual Program Plan

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

What a great idea!

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

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

In Cub Scouts

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

They had the time, and the Scouts were interested.

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

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

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

In Boy Scouts

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

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

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

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

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

The Blackhawk COURIER



www.BlackhawkScouting.org



www.Scouting.org/Alumni

Don't be shy - Tell Mary Anne EVERYTHING!

Send in your event notices, photos from
Campouts & Adventures
News of your Troop, Packs, Crews and Posts.

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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

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?

Continuing Boy Scout Advancement in a Venturing Crew

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

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

The Intent Behind Signatures, and What They Signify

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

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

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

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



Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Boy Scout Merit Badge Programs 2016

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

For more information, visit our website: klehm.org

Challenger Learning Center 222 Church Street, Woodstock, Illinois

Challenger Learning Center is offering science-related merit badge

Boy Scout Merit Badge:

Space Exploration -- April 9

9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

\$35 per participant



The Space Exploration Merit Badge will be offered at the Challenger Learning Center in Woodstock. Scouts should be sure to complete the prerequisites before attending.

Prerequisites for Space Exploration merit badge: #2. Design a collector's card, with a picture on the front and information on the back, about your favorite space pioneer. Share your card and discuss four other space pioneers with your counselor.

To sign up, go to BlackhawkScouting.org/Sycamore

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

BURPEE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Scout Programs

Webelos Scouts

"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

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

Archaeology

May 7, 10:00 to 3:00 – \$15

Mammal Study

March 19, 1:30 to 4:00 – \$10

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



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.



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/OutdoorEthicsAwards

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.



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 many activities in several categories which will supplement your program planning. Many of the activities will fit in with the Cub Scout adventure advancement program.

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.





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.

Winter Activity Guide

Winter provides Scouts with a wonderful and unique opportunity to enjoy the out-doors. However, potentially extreme weather conditions, frigid temperatures and unique hazards associated with outdoor winter activities require careful and conscientious planning to ensure these activities are performed safely.

'Being prepared' isn't just for Scouts—proper planning is the critical first step for any outdoor outing or excursion. Before embarking on your next cold weather outing, don't forget to pack a positive attitude, pace yourself, and warm up to these easy-to-remember, but often overlooked, safety tips."

Top Outdoor Safety Tips for the C-O-L-D

Keeping warm is the most important part of cold-weather camping and outdoor activities. Use the C-O-L-D method to stay warm.

C - Clean

Since insulation is only effective when heat is trapped by dead air spaces, keep your insulating layers clean and fluffy. Dirt, grime, and perspiration can mat down those air spaces and reduce the warmth of a garment.

O - Overheating

Avoid overheating by adjusting the layers of your clothing to meet the outside temperature and the exertions of your activities. Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water, and refrain from drinking caffeinated drinks that act as diuretics.

L- Loose Layers

A steady flow of warm blood is essential to keep all parts of your body heated. Wear several loosely fitting layers of clothing and footgear that will allow maximum insulation without impeding your circulation. Having clothing that is bright colored (orange or red) is also a good idea, so hunters and sportsmen can see you in snowy conditions. Always have a hat and wear it.

D - Dry

Sweaty, damp clothing and skin can cause your body to cool quickly, possibly leading to frostnip and hypothermia. Keep dry by avoiding clothes that absorb moisture. Always brush away snow on your clothes before you enter a heated area. Keep clothing around your neck loosened so that body heat and moisture can escape instead of soaking through your layers.

Prepare for icy temperatures

Select bright thermal clothing that can be layered as the weather changes. When hands and feet begin to chill, it's time to put on a hat. Hats help trap body heat by preventing it from escaping through your head. Wear suitable shoes for walking on frozen ground or ice, and don't forget other essentials like mittens, gloves, and scarves/neck warmers.

Find supplies for campfires

Prior to sundown, find tinder and wood necessary for starting and maintaining a campfire.

Know the area

Thoroughly research the area where you are planning to go, or go with someone who knows the area and may have camped there before. Be mindful of potential avalanche areas or unstable ice.

Travel with a buddy

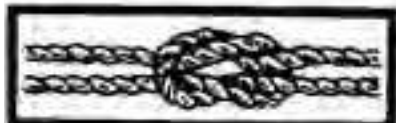
Groups of four to 10 are an even better idea. Should a problem arise, such as injury or hypothermia, someone can stay with the injured person(s) while others seek help.

Winter Driving Safety Tips

Winter driving can be dangerous, but the following tips can go a long way toward keeping you safe:

- Clear ice and frost from all windows and side mirrors. Clearing just a peephole restricts vision and is against the law in some states.
- Clear the entire vehicle of snow. Snow left on the roof and hood can easily end up on your windshield or rear window, obstructing your view.
- Slow down. Posted speed limits are meant for ideal conditions. Reduce your speed when encountering wet or slick road conditions even if operating a four-wheel drive vehicle.
- Leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you.
- At the first sign of brake lights, start slowing down. Try to avoid slamming on the brakes.
- If you have antilock brakes, do not pump them. Keep constant, firm pressure on the brake pedal until the vehicle comes to a complete stop.
- If you start to skid, take your foot off the pedal and steer in the direction you want the vehicle to go. Do not hit the brakes or accelerate.

For more winter driving tips, go to <http://ntsi.com/quick-links/safety-articles/winter-driving/>



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	March 5 -- Trainers EDGE March 19 -- BALOO training April 30 - May 1 -- Wilderness First Aid May 7-8 -- Wilderness First Aid June 12-17 -- NYLT, Camp Lowden July 31-August 5 -- NYLT, Canyon Camp August 19-21 & September 23-25 -- Wood Badge
Sycamore	April 30 -- BALOO April 30 -- Boy Scout Leader Specific Training April 30 -- Boy Scout Leader Outdoor Training, Part A May 6-7 -- Webelos Leader Outdoor Training May 6-7 -- Boy Scout Leader Outdoor Training, part B
Wanchanagi	March 19 -- BALOO April 20 and 27 -- 2-part Scoutmaster Specifics Training May 6-7 -- Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills for Boy Scout leaders Troop Committee Challenge -- Available as an in-house training upon request!
White Eagle	Attend roundtable and check district Web site for listing
Wetassa	Attend roundtable and check district Web site for listing
Arrowhead	Attend roundtable and check district Web site for listing



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.



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 31 - 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

March 5, 2016

Program Center at Swanson Hill

7194 Vandiver Rd

Rockford, Illinois 61108

Registration: 8:00 – 8:30 a.m.

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

Are you currently a trainer or want to be a trainer soon? Do you give presentations either in Scouting or outside of Scouting?

If you answered “yes” to either of these questions, then “The Trainer’s EDGE” is for you!

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

Join us for The Trainer’s EDGE:

There is no cost for this training. Although there is no cost for this session, pre-registration is required so that we can ensure that we have adequate materials for everyone.

To register -- go to BlackhawkScouting.org. The article with a link to registration form is on the home page.

Bring your own lunch, please.

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

Activity Location – go to: Map: Program Center at Swanson Hill
7194 Vandiver Rd, Rockford, IL 61108, US

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.



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	WAN 6
WTSA 61	AH 67	AH 108	AH 106	OOC 505
AH 76	AH 84	OOC 2810	OOC 128	WAN 141
AH 88	SYC 152	AH 105	WAN 123	SYC 163
AH 95	AH 115	OOC 50	WAN 37	WAN 707
SYC 160	AH 125	OOC 145	OOC 282	
WTSA 51	AH 775		OOC 662	
WE 85	AH 105			
OOC 744				
OOC 303				
WE 305				
WTSA 28				
FULL	FULL			

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	OOC 4	SYC 369	OOC 2	WAN 601
WE 902	OOC 174	WAN 477	WAN 41	
SYC 168	OOC 288	OOC 11	WAN 123	
AH 82	SYC 555	OOC 1402	WAN 2	
OOC 330	WE 315	WE 117	OOC 781	
OOC 19	WAN 77			
WTSA 19	SYC 575			
	OOC 880			
	Full			



We want to hear from you!

Camp 2016 Survey

Where are you going to camp this summer? Camp Lowden? Canyon Camp? Other camp? We would like to know.

Please follow the following link to answer a 4 question survey – www.blackhawkscouting.doubleknot.com/survey/camp-2016/47754

Not sure where to go to camp? Check out these brand new camp videos. Go to BlackhawkScouting.org and click on the camp videos on the opening page.

Summer Camp Volunteer Commissioner Camp Lowden, BSA

Do you have numerous adults attending summer camp with your troop and you are wondering how to pay for them all? Camp Lowden has a deal for you. Be a Volunteer Commissioner and attend summer camp for free!

Camp Lowden is looking for two volunteer commissioners each week to assist the camp staff.

This is how it works:

General Requirements

- Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Be at least 18 years of age prior to the opening of camp.
- Agree to report on Sunday and remain until Saturday of your assigned week.
- Cannot be the acting summer camp Scoutmaster.

Duties of a Volunteer Commissioner

- Check-in on Sunday and check-out on Saturday assigned troop.
- Conduct campsite inspections.
- Work with Camp Commissioner on helping troops with needs.
- Provide assistance in a program area at least one hour per day (Monday – Friday) teaching a skill or helping with a merit badge.

Volunteer Commissioners will sleep and eat with their troop and be part of troop activities when not performing volunteer commissioner duties.

Interested? Fill out the Summer Camp Volunteer Commissioner Application and send it to Blackhawk Area Council, Attn: Philip McCrery, 2820 McFarland Rd., Rockford IL 61107. Those interested will be contacted.

Not with a troop but still would like to spend a week at camp as a troop commissioner?

Apply to be a volunteer commissioner.



2016 Cub Scout Summer Camp

Tiger/Wolf/Bear Camp

[Click Here to Register for Cub Scout Resident Camp!](#)

For Cub Scouts entering first, second, and third grades in the fall of 2016. Boys must attend with a parent or guardian.

Date: July 23-24, 2016

Location: Canyon Camp, near Stockton, Illinois

Fee: Scouts \$45 by July 1 or \$60 after July 1. Adults \$20

Check-in time: 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. Check-out time: 4 p.m. on Sunday

For those that need it, both camps supply wall tents or you can bring your own family tent.

Webelos Camp

[Click here to register for Webelos Resident Camp!](#)

For Webelos Scouts entering fourth and fifth grades in the fall of 2016. Older Cub Scout fun and activities plus progress on their Webelos / Arrow of Light adventures. It is recommended that a parent comes with each Webelos Scout, but one parent can bring up to four Scouts (a 4 to 1 ratio).

Dates: July 29-31

Location: Camp Lowden, near Oregon, Illinois

Fee: Scouts \$55 by July 1 or \$70 after July 1. Adults \$30

Check-in time: 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Friday. Check-out time: noon on Sunday

For those who need it, both camps supply wall tents or you can bring your own family tent.

After receiving your registration and payment, you are signed-up!

* A few weeks before camp, you will be sent an email with: map, checklist of what to bring, health forms, and a booklet of additional information. We do fill up quickly, so get your reservation in as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, call the Blackhawk Area Council during business hours -- 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 815-397-0210.



BLACKHAWK AREA COUNCIL

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

CAMP LOWDEN

BLACKHAWK AREA COUNCIL

SUMMER CAMP VOLUNTEER COMMISSIONER APPLICATION

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America. Be at least 18 years of age prior to the opening of camp. Agree to report on Sunday and remain until Saturday of your assigned week.

DUTIES OF A VOLUNTEER COMMISSIONER

1. Check-in on Sunday and check-out on Saturday assigned troop.
2. Conduct campsite inspections.
3. Work with Camp Commissioner on helping troops with needs.
4. Provide assistance in a program area at least one hour per day (Monday – Friday).

Name: _____
First Middle I. Last

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____ Age: _____

Week I wish to serve at Camp Lowden:

- | | | |
|--------------|------------------|------------|
| 1 June 19-25 | 2 June 26-July 2 | 3 July 3-9 |
| 4 July 10-16 | 5 July 17-23 | |

SCOUTING EXPERIENCE

Number of years in Scouting _____ Are you active now? _____

Currently registered in Troop/Pack No. (Circle One) _____ District _____

Current position _____

PLEASE CHECK SKILLS AND RELATED TRAINING YOU HAVE RECEIVED

<u>SCOUTCRAFT</u> ___ Camping ___ Cooking ___ Pioneering ___ Backpacking ___ Indian Lore ___ Wilderness ___ Survival ___ Orienteering ___ GPS <u>OTHER</u> ___ Emergency ___ Preparedness ___ Finger-printing ___ Rocketry _____ _____ _____	<u>ECOLOGY</u> ___ Astronomy ___ Bird Study ___ Soil & Water ___ Conservation ___ Insect Life ___ Nature ___ Botany ___ Reptile Study ___ Forestry ___ Fish & Wildlife ___ Management ___ Geology ___ Weather ___ Environmental ___ Science ___ Mammal Study	<u>AQUATICS</u> ___ Swimming ___ Lifesaving ___ Canoeing ___ Rowing ___ Kayaking ___ Fishing <u>TRAINING</u> ___ National BSA ___ Camp School ___ BSA Lifeguard ___ Red Cross ___ Aquatics Training ___ Junior Leader ___ Training ___ JLT Staff	<u>SHOOTING SPORTS</u> ___ Rifle Shooting ___ Shotgun Shooting ___ Blackpowder ___ Archery <u>HANDICRAFT</u> ___ Leatherwork ___ Basketry ___ Woodcraving ___ Wood Badge ___ Wood Badge Staff ___ C.P.R. ___ C.P.R. Instructor ___ Red Cross First ___ Aid ___ Red Cross ___ Instructor
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CAMPING EXPERIENCE:

Camp attended _____ Year _____
Camp attended _____ Year _____

Camp staff positions previously held:

1. Position _____ Camp _____ Year _____
2. Position _____ Camp _____ Year _____
3. Position _____ Camp _____ Year _____

Other organizations or interests: _____
Hobbies and Skills _____

EMPLOYMENT:

Presently employed by _____
Business address _____ City _____ State _____
Job Description _____

REFERENCES:

Name	Address	Phone #
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____

Blackhawk Area Council Is Looking for the Best Counselors-in-training

The Summer Camp Staff is composed of adults and young people who are 15 years of age working all summer. However, there is a place for younger Scouts who are 14 years of age. The CIT program is designed for those exceptional young Scouts who display leadership and maturity within their troop. Its purpose is to provide training to potential future full-time staff members. The CIT positions are Summer Camp Staff jobs, but are paid only with room and board.

The program is beneficial to the potential staff member, the camp, and the troop.

- The CIT can experience the life of a staff member by actually living it. Those performing well will have a much better chance of securing a full-time summer camp staff position the next year.
- The Scout sharpens his leadership skills, teaching skills, and builds his self-confidence.

How the CIT Program Works

- CIT's must be 14 years of age and First Class rank.
- CIT's attend Staff Training Week and - - -
 - At Camp Lowden work all summer
 - At Canyon Camp choose three more weeks to work
- Work areas are rotated to give CIT's experience opportunities in different areas of the summer camp operation.
- Each CIT will be provided with all the other benefits of being a Camp Staff member and is expected to follow the same rules as the paid staff members.
- Advancement is an important part of the CIT program. CIT's are encouraged to work on advancement in the area they are working in.
- CIT's participate in the total camp program along with the paid staff members. This includes all campfires, camp-wide special events, work projects, and other work as assigned by the Camp Director.
- A written evaluation of each CIT will be made by the camp director and by the area director of the area in which he worked.
- The CIT program is under the direction of the camp director. The directors of the areas in which they work directly supervise CIT's.

Ask These Questions. . . .

- Do you possess . . . "All the Right Stuff"?
- Do you love the out-of-doors and the beautiful natural setting that houses a very special Scout camp?
- Would you be interested in improving your outdoor skills and leadership skills?

Mail a Camp Staff Application to Blackhawk Area Council, 2820 McFarland Road, Rockford IL 61107 or call 815-397-0210.
Camp staff applications can be found at www.blackhawkscouting.org under Camping.





41st Annual Kiwanis Work Weekend at Canyon Camp April 30 and May 1, 2016

Scouters and friends of Canyon Camp are asked to help at Canyon Camp on Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1. This will be the 41st Annual Kiwanis Work Weekend at the camp.

Volunteers are needed to work together with area Kiwanians as we open camp and prepare for another summer of outdoor programming for Boy Scouts And Cub Scouts.

You are invited to join us in helping prepare camp for the summer season. We will be doing the usual spring maintenance including painting, plumbing and wood construction projects. No matter what your skill, our primary work criteria is enthusiasm for service to the Scouting program. Bring your favorite gloves and tools and we'll provide the projects.

The Monroe Kiwanis Club will be providing meals throughout the weekend. Whether you can stay only a few hours, or all weekend, you are welcome to join us for the fellowship and fresh spring air.

Please call or email Lee Binkley with your questions and to let us know how many volunteers we can expect!

Phone: 608-325-5540

Email: leebinkley@hotmail.com



Wanted:
**Aquatics Director and
Climbing Director
at Canyon Camp**
**Both positions require staff members
to be age 21 or older.**

Please contact Lee Binkley at 608-325-5540 or by email at leebinkley@hotmail.com if you are interested



It's a Reunion This Summer at Canyon Camp!

The Canyon Camp staff alumni and friends are hosting a reunion for everyone on Wednesday and Thursday, July 6-7, at Canyon Camp. Come see camp in operation and filled with Scouts learning about the Spirit of Canyon Camp.

The reunion starts with a welcome and Scoutmaster's coffee at 9 a.m. on July 6 and will conclude after lunch on July 7. If you can't be there early, at least come for the traditional Wednesday Visitor's Night and Indian Dance pageant along the shores of Coon Creek. A barbecue dinner will be available for purchase Wednesday evening, and other meals can be purchased individually as well.

You will have plenty of time to reminisce with alumni, Scoutmasters, and friends, visit program areas, tour the Wiley property, or just wander the grounds recalling days spent with some the best friends you ever had.

Throughout the reunion there will be an auction of items related to Camp – including benches made by John Weber and a bench made and signed by the late Dr. Harold Held. All proceeds from the auction will go to the Canyon Camp Spirit Scholarship Fund.

We are interested in seeing as many former Scoutmaster's as possible at this reunion, so please help us spread the word that we want them to attend, too!

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the reunion at Canyon Camp July 6-7 this summer! Don't miss this tremendous opportunity to share a day or two reminiscing with staff alumni, past Scoutmasters, and our devoted Friends at Canyon Camp.

For more information, contact Mike Beeth at beeth2@gmail.com

Wanted: **Camp Lowden Staff**

At least age 21:

Aquatics Director -- First Class Express Director

Age 18-21:

Camp Commissioner -- Tier 2 Adventure Instructor

Age 16-18 years old

Quartermaster, Shooting Sports Instructor, Nature Instructor,
Aquatics Instructor, Commissary Director, Kitchen Aides

Please contact Philip McCrery
815-978-5527 or prmcrrery@gmail.com

Wulapeju Lodge #140 Order of the Arrow



The Order of the Arrow, Scouting's honor Scout, honor camper society of Blackhawk Area Council held its annual Winter Banquet at D'Andrea's Banquets in Crystal Lake on Saturday, January 16, 2016.

140 Scouts and adult leaders in attendance listened to a presentation on The Men of Omaha Beach by award-winning military historian and author Robert Mueller.



Robert Mueller, award winning military historian and author, during his presentation on The Men of Omaha Beach.



Presentation of Vigil Honor Certificates by Sam Payseur.



Presentation of Centurion Award to recipients Lee Binkley, Dan Dick, Dr. David Hanson, Mark Schaer, Will Coots, Sam Payseur, and Randy Weaver (Josh Ehlers not present).



Founders Award recipients Rick Rhoads and Sam Payseur



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 13.

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

Total number youth and adults _____

Total fee submitted \$ _____

Arrival/Departure

Arrive: Friday night (after 5 p.m.) _____

Saturday morning (by 7 a.m.) _____

Other time _____

Depart:

Saturday night _____ If so, will you be staying for dinner at 5:30? _____

Sunday morning (program ends around 10 a.m.) _____

Any special dietary or health accommodations needed? _____

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

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

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



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.

February 22 – 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 Artic 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 VentureCrew275@att.net, or Kathy at 847-546-1782

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 at <http://www.badgertrails.org> or 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 and GSUSA. \$3 fee includes patch, chance at trophies, and attendance prizes, and fun fishing! 22 years at the same place.

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

June 25 – Blackhawk Area Regatta Rockford Illinois Rock Cut State Park, Olson Lake

One-day competition running for over 50 years, including obstacle course, archery, canoeing, line toss, tugs, swimming, log sawing, plus dinner and a dance. 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 at <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.

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

September 30-October 2 - Devil's Lake Hike Devil's Lake State Park, Baraboo, Wisconsin

Planned Scout weekend of camping, hiking activities, Saturday evening dance. For further information contact Badger Trails Inc. At info@badgertrails.org

November 4-6 – Creep-o-ree Long Lake Boy Scout Camp, Dundee Wisconsin

Campsite decorations contest, banquet, dance, and fun activities/competitions

Contact Queen Gwendolyn at GoGrannygwenGo@gmail.com

December 2-3 — Christmas Tree Ship Chicago, Illinois

Event for Scouts of ages 13+. Help unload Christmas trees from the Freightier 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 16-18 – Eagle Cave Blue River, Wisconsin

A particular weekend when 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

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





Venturers – Subscribe to “The Central Point” Central Region Venturing’s Newsletter

National, Regional, and Area announcements about upcoming events and many other topics are included in *The Central Point*, Central Region Venturing’s Newsletter.

Each edition will feature information that you will find useful for your council’s Venturing program. We will highlight items that support the development of your Venturing Officers’ Association, Forums, advisors, commissioners, professional staff, council-wide activities and the Central Region Venturing Areas. We look forward to being of service to you in Venturing.

The current issue and back issues of all Region and Area newsletters are available at <http://crventuring.org/Home/Newsletters/>.



Adventure Awaits at the Exploring Event of the Summer

For the first time in Scouting history, Explorers from all career fields will gather at the Summit Bechtel Reserve for an event unlike any other: SummerFest 2016.

This summer, Explorers will assemble from around the country from July 27-30 for four days of outdoor excitement at the High Adventure Base. SummerFest 2016 is an event open to Explorers registered in posts and registered adult leaders who are looking for an unforgettable summer retreat.

Participants are in for adventure as they experience the Summit in all of its splendor—from the rock climbing and rafting to biking and zip lines, SummerFest will be an event to remember.

More to Come! Information about registration and pricing for SummerFest is coming your way soon, so stay tuned to Scouting Wire.org (January 28, 2016, article) for updates. For now, just be sure to mark your calendars for **July 27-30, 2016!**



AdventuringFest 2016

AdventuringFest 2016 is a special Scouting event at the Summit that’s open to registered Venturers, Scouts (14+), and adult leaders across the U.S.

This six-day High-Adventure excursion invites participants to explore the best that the Summit has to offer. We’re talking rock climbing, skateboarding, BMX biking, water sports, shooting sports, zip lines, challenge courses, and so much more.

As if the adrenaline-pumping activities weren’t enough, AdventureFest-goers will also get to jam out to concerts and meet new friends in Venturing at the event. What more could a Venturer want?

Stay Tuned!

Keep your eyes peeled on Scouting Wire for information about registration and pricing to get the complete lowdown on this exciting new event at the Summit.

In the meantime, save the date for July 31 to August 5, 2016!

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 Lumpp, 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

District Executive

Michael Ancheta, 815-397-0210

Michael.Ancheta@Scouting.org

Sycamore District Calendar

February

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

19 Cub Scout Event Day at Midway Village Museum, Rockford

25 Good Friday, council service center closed

April

5 *Courier* copy due -- Internet edition for May through August events

7 District Committee and Commissioners meetings

9-10 Council Pinewood Derby

19 Tiger Time

21 Council Annual Meeting

21 Council Coordinated Committee Meetings

22-24 U. S. Grant Pilgrimage, Galena

30 BALOO training

30 Boy Scout Leader Specific Training

30 Boy Scout Leader Outdoor Training, Part A

30 - May 1 Canyon Camp Work Weekend

May

6-7 Webelos Leader Outdoor Training

6-7 Boy Scout Leader Outdoor Training, part B

7 Just We Two

7 Commissioner Planning Conference

10 *Courier* copy due -- Internet edition for May through August events

13-15 – Woods of Webelos, Camp Lowden

30 Memorial Day -- Council service center closed



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.

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

Training

Happy New Year to all!

As we begin our "rechartering season" in the Sycamore District I would ask all Cub Scout packs to please take the time to confirm that your Cubmaster and all assistant Cubmasters, den leaders and assistant den leaders, and your committee members have completed their required training segments.

If your members are having difficulties completing the training online, the Sycamore District Training Team can provide group leader specific training for your unit, in person, at a location near you. We can conduct Youth Protection, Cub Scout Leader Specific, Cubmaster Specific, and Committee Challenge.

BALOO Training will be coming up on April 30 and **Outdoor Webelos Leaders Skills** will be coming May. 6-7.

Let's remember that every Scout deserves a fully trained leader to present the youth the awesome Cub Scout program.

For further information please contact

Brian Lumpp, Sycamore District Training Chair at blumppy2002@yahoo.com

Frank Colomer, Sycamore District Cub Scout Training Chair at Frankcolomer@comcast.net

Volunteer Recognition Dinner

March 3, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Register by February 20

\$10 per person (\$12 after February 20)

Grace Lutheran Church,
1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road, Woodstock

Join us to recognize our distinguished volunteers
from the 2015 year of Scouting.



Scouting for Food 2016

Scouting for Food is right around the corner. On February 27th Scouts will distribute door hanger. Food Collection Day is March 5th when Scouts will return to pick up food for local food pantries.

You can view this year's "Scouting for Food Good Turn for America Unit Participation Packet" on the council's Web site BlackhawkScouting.org.

Please see your unit commissioner or district executive for further information.

Charter Renewal Turn-in

Date and Location

March 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, Woodstock

You may also make an appointment with Dane or Michael to drop off your completed charters. Please do not drop off a completed charter without meeting with one of the Scouting professionals.

Only clean charters will be accepted and processed.

Membership Notes

Recruit! Recruit! Recruit!

It's recharter time! As I read through the recharter information on the Blackhawk Area website, I found this important information under the frequently asked questions section:

What if I don't get the charter renewal in on time? Units with late charters suffer a number of problems:

- First, their unit is no longer covered by the BSA insurance coverage. This means that your leaders could be liable in the event of an accident.
- Second, youth advancements cannot be recorded through the national office of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Third, magazine subscriptions of *Boy's Life* and *Scouting* magazines will lapse (and it takes a full two months for these periodicals to resume their circulation to your home).
- Finally, your unit will not be eligible for the Journey to Excellence Award – an important distinction and an indication that you are bringing the best possible program to your unit's youth.

Youth Protection Training is a must!

This information is also found on the Blackhawk Area website as part of the Open Letter to Our Parents:

"All volunteers are required to complete Youth Protection training and must renew the training every two years. This training is accessible to the general public online at www.Scouting.org, under the Youth Protection tab. Please review the training, as it provides important information about detecting and preventing abuse, no matter where it may occur."

There is much more information included in the Open Letter to Our Parents. Please visit the Blackhawk Area Website to read the complete letter.

Jennifer Broadfield-Colomer
Vice Chair Membership

Spring Round Up!

Spring is just around the corner! Remember to set a date to recruit kindergarten boys to join your pack! Prepare a summer plan flyer to hand out to the new Tigers and keep them engaged in the program! Ask a pack family to sponsor your new Tiger family during the summer to keep them informed of upcoming events with the pack, district, and council!

Tigermania Is Back!

Tigermania is an excellent incentive program for kindergarten spring recruitment. Tigermania offers two different package options when registering a Tiger into the pack.

Watch for information pertaining to Tigermania at roundtable, the *Blackhawk Area Courier*, or inquire for information through the membership team or the Sycamore District staff.



"A Scout smiles and whistles under all circumstances!"

Lord Baden-Powell

Scoutmaster Position-Specific Training

April 30, 2016

Nunda Township Picnic Barn
3510 Bay Road, Crystal Lake

Scoutmaster Position-Specific training is the BSA's initial level of training for the top leaders of Boy Scout troops. It is designed for Scoutmasters, assistant Scoutmasters, and junior assistant Scoutmasters. However, committee members and other adults connected to a Boy Scout troop are welcome to attend.

Youth Protection Training must be "current" to take this course.

Times: 8 a.m. until approximately 1 p.m.

Cost: \$0.00 (no cost!)

Materials needed: Pen or pencil and paper. **Uniforms are required.**

Contacts: Wayne Kemp, 847-224-3664 or wayne @ourkempfamily.com or Brian Lumpp, 815- 546-9263

Registration: blackhawkscouting.org/sycamore and find the link at the top of the page under District Training events. (Although there is no cost for this event, registration is required to ensure adequate materials for all participants.)

Note: "Introduction to Outdoor Leaders Skills Training - Part A" will follow at approximately 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. (Part B will be held May 6-7)

Registration deadline is April 25, for both courses

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills

Part "A" – April 30, 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Part "B"– May 6-7, 6:00 p.m. Friday to 8 p.m. Saturday

Attendance at all sessions is mandatory to complete the training.

**All sessions will be held at Nunda Township Picnic Barn,
3510 Bay Road, Crystal Lake**

"Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills" is a required training for Scoutmasters and assistant Scoutmasters. The skills taught are based on skills found in the Boy Scout Handbook This course is also ideal for Venturing leaders and Webelos den leaders taking the boys camping.

Youth Protection Training must be "current" to take this course.

Cost: \$25.00

Materials needed: Pen or pencil, paper, and *Scout Handbook*. **Uniforms are required.**

Contacts: Wayne Kemp, 847-224-3664 or wayne @ourkempfamily.com or Brian Lumpp , 815-546-9263

Note: "Scoutmaster Position-Specific Training" will be held the morning of April 30. For those attending this session and "Part A" of Introduction to Outdoor Leaders Skills, lunch will be provided.

Registration deadline is April 25 for both courses



Tiger Time 2016

Saturday, March 19, 2016

12 noon—3:30 p.m.

Check in 12 noon

McHenry High School West Campus
4724 W. Crystal Lake Rd., McHenry

What is Tiger Time? It is one-on-one time for current Tigers to have fun and complete adventures with their adult partner. We will sing, play games, do crafts, STEM activities and complete adventures from your *Tiger Handbook*.

Each Tiger must be accompanied by a parent or other adult partner over 21 years of age. Please do not bring other siblings along—no exceptions.

Fee is \$8 per boy – parent/adult partner is free. Fees are non-refundable, but transferable. Fee includes all activities, a drawstring bag, a patch, and an afternoon snack.

Register **as a pack** by Friday, March 4, 2016. No late registrations will be accepted.

If possible, please arrive in dens to expedite the registration process.

Bring a water bottle labeled with the Scout's name to refill at water fountains.

Leave coats and other personal items in your car.

Go to BlackhawkScouting.org/sycamore to download the registration form.

Questions? Contact Kristi Miller at 4rscoutz@gmail.com or phone 815-276-5080 or Dawn Reid at dreid816@comcast.net or 847-561-7532.

Save the Date! 2016 Cub Scout Day Camps

Wolf Day Camp (Tigers now)

McHenry Township Park
June 21-24

Bear Day Camp (Wolves now)

McHenry Township Park
June 27-30

Webelos Day Camp (Bears now)

Camp Lakota
July 19-22

Tiger Day Camp

(Free for all new Tigers as of Spring 2016)
Camp Lakota
July 23

Arrow of Light Camp (Webelos now)

Camp Lakota
July 26-29





William T. Hornaday Gold Badge Recipient Nicole Hartnett of Spring Grove Pack 340

The William T. Hornaday Gold Badge was awarded to Nicole Hartnett of Spring Grove Pack 340 at Sycamore's January roundtable. The Gold Badge is one of the William T. Hornaday awards that recognizes Scouts, Scouters, and units for outstanding efforts in natural resource conservation and environmental protection.

The Gold Badge is granted by the council to an adult Scouter. Central to the selection process+ is the influence the nominee has had on youth and educational programs emphasizing sound stewardship of our nation's natural resources and environmental improvement during a period of at least three years.

Nicole is a Webelos den leader and for the past four years, coordinated Pack 340's annual blue bird conservation service project and study. This project is in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to help monitor and improve the population of blue birds in our area.

Each year in the spring, Pack 340 maintains and monitors roughly 45 blue bird houses in the Chain O Lakes State Park. In March, the entire pack removes the old nests and checks the condition of the bird houses. Houses are replaced if needed. Each den is assigned a trail with a set of houses to monitor over the next 8 weeks. Each family takes a week to walk the assigned trail and record the findings of what type of nest, number of eggs and young are in each bird house. The results are then compiled and submitted to the IDNR.

This is a really popular project with the Cub Scouts. The Scouts truly enjoy cleaning the nests and then monitoring and watching the young grow up. Nicole teaches them how to identify both the birds and the nests.

But most of all, Nicole teaches them importance of this project and impact on our environment. She is really passionate about the conservation of nature, especially the birds in our area.

For more information about the William T. Hornaday awards, please contact John Fiorina at jfiorina@crystallakeparks.org or go to "Hornaday Gold Badge" in your Internet browser.



Cub Scouts from Pack 340 performing spring cleaning
on the blue bird nest.

Woods of Webelos



Woods of Webelos is a weekend camping activity for all registered Cub Scouts or Webelos Scouts who will be entering 4th or 5th grade in the fall of 2016 and their parent/guardian.

This weekend includes fun and interactive activities that are designed around the interests of the boys and provide a "kick-start" to their next year of Scouting. This exciting weekend will be held May 20–22 at Camp Lowden in Oregon, Illinois.

Registration deadline is April 30. The information packet for Woods of Webelos can be found online at www.blackhawkscouting.org under the Sycamore District tab.

In addition to the information packet, there will be a special session at the April 14 Cub Scout roundtable. During this session we will discuss items that will help you prepare for the weekend and make the most your Woods of Webelos experience.

Registration will be accepted online only. You will be able to enter a partial registration and then update that registration through April 30. After that date, no changes can be made.

In addition to completing the online registration, a health/medical form is required for each participant. Forms must be mailed to the council service center by April 30. The forms are also available online.

See you at Woods of Webelos!

Help Wanted for Woods of Webelos

Attention Boy Scout troop and Venturing new leaders: Are you looking for an awesome activity where you can show off your unit's skills to younger Scouts? Woods of Webelos is looking for help running various sessions on Saturday, May 21.

We set up a round-robin of sessions that last 45 minutes each. You would do the same session seven times during the day. We can even provide you with session ideas! There are several sessions that we need a couple of adults to run and other sessions that we need 4–7 youth plus two of their unit leaders to run.

We will provide you with lunch for the day to thank you for volunteering your services. Of course, you will be thanked by the smiles of all the kids and parents who come through your sessions.

You may also camp out at beautiful Camp Lowden the nights of May 20 and 21, if desired.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Gail Krec at gail.scouts@yahoo.com.

Boy Scout Troop Has 100th Eagle Scout Award

Boy Scout Troop 455, chartered by Johnsborg Community Club, has reached a major accomplishment with the awarding of its 100th and 101st Eagle Scout rank since the troop's inception in 1972.

Scouts complete requirements for Boy Scout's highest rank by working on required merit badges, leadership roles, and completing an Eagle project that benefits their community.

Troop 455 Eagle projects have included conservation projects for McHenry County Conservation District, various service projects for local schools, libraries, and churches and the villages of Johnsborg, Ringwood, Wonder Lake, and Fox Lake.

"Along the way they have outdoor adventures and leadership opportunities they might not have outside of Scouting," said Nicole Sherman, troop committee chair. "We are proud to see these young men grow into responsible adults, giving back to their community and having fun with a purpose."

The two Scouts attaining the 100th and 101st Eagle achievement this fall were Drew Johnson (100th) and Brian Thomson (101st), both are students of Johnsborg High School.

Drew, 17, is the son of Joel and Linda Johnson, of Ringwood, For his leadership project, he constructed park benches for the village of Ringwood's park.

Brian, 16, is the son of Barry and Maureen Thomson, of Johnsborg. His project was erosion prevention of a lake front in one of the lakes at the Hollows Conservation area for MCCD.

"We've been talking about this moment for the past year, once we realized how close we were to 100 Eagles" said Troop 455 Scoutmaster Mike Lumppp. "We actually saw a number of our Scouts accelerate their efforts toward this goal."

Scouts are known for working together and, according to Mr. Lumppp. "We don't wish to recognize just one Scout with the 100th spot. The troop stands proudly together with all of its Eagle Scouts, starting with its first in 1975."

Only about four percent of all Scouts have attained the rank of Eagle since it was first awarded in 1912. Troop 455 is relatively small, averaging about 30 Scouts in the program per year. The troop has consistently had two or more Eagles awarded each year for the past fifteen years, with some years as many as six awarded.

Troop 455 meets at the Johnsborg Community Club every Tuesday night during the school year at 7p.m. Further information can be found at www.bsa455.com.



Photos were taken at the end of the Scouts' Eagle board of reviews –
Brian Thomson (left) and Drew Johnson (right)

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

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

Camporee: Bill Spivey, 243-0671

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,
397-0210,

Eagle Chair: Ida Bolen, 239-2634, 289-0661

Merit Badges: Ken Mosny, 965-4871

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

Jimmy Berry, 543-1409

Harlem: Carolyn Wolfe, 494-0508

Program Center:

Alice Roby, 773-368-5724

Order of the Arrow Advisor

Denny Johnson, 633-6335 (C)742-5952

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

303-304-4232

jared.carlin@scouting.org

Wanchanagi District Calendar

February

- 26-28 Venturing Blast, Camp Lowden
- 27 Scouting for Food flyer distribution

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 Roundtable
- 10 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 19 BALOO training
- 19 Cub Scout Event Day at Midway Village Museum, Rockford
- 25 Good Friday, council service center closed

April

- 5 *Courier* copy due -- Internet edition for May through August events
- 7 District Committee and District Commissioner Staff meetings
- 9-10 Council Pinewood Derby
- 14 Roundtable
- 14 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 20 Scoutmaster Specifics Training, part 1
- 21 Council Annual Meeting
- 21 Council Coordinated Committee Meetings
- 22-24 U. S. Grant Pilgrimage, Galena
- 27 Scoutmaster Specifics Training, part 2
- 30 - May 1 Canyon Camp Work Weekend

May

- 5 District Committee and District Commissioner Staff meetings
- 7 Commissioner Planning Conference
- 10 *Courier* copy due -- Internet edition for May through August events
- 12 Roundtable
- 12 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 30 Memorial Day -- Council service center closed

Scouting for Food 2016

Scouting for Food is right around the corner. On February 27th Scouts will distribute door hangers. Food Collection Day is March 5th when Scouts will return to pick up food for local food pantries.

You can view this year's "Scouting for Food Good Turn for America Unit Participation Packet" on the council's Web site -- BlackhawkScouting.org.

Please see your unit commissioner or district executive for further information.



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 Dates

March 16	April 20	May 18	June 15
July 20	August 24	September 21	October 19
November 16	December 21		

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.



For information and to register for any of the three training courses listed below, go to BlackhawkScouting.org/wanchanagi/training. Select 2016 Training Dates, then click on the selected course and choose "Training Details" or "online registration."

Upcoming Training

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

BALOO

Program Center at Swanson Hill

7194 Vandiver Road, Rockford

Saturday, March 19, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This training allows Cub Scout packs to get proper instruction on outdoor camping for Cub Scouts! Email or call Alice Roby to RSVP – alice@oextreme.com or 815-986-8398.

The last day to register is March 17.

Cost: \$10 per participant

To register: <http://www.blackhawkscouting.org/Event.aspx?id=1078>

Scoutmaster Specifics

Tumilowicz Center for Boy Scouts

2820 McFarland Road

Rockford

Part 1 – Wednesday, April 20, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Part 2 – Wednesday, April 27, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

This training is required for all registered Scoutmasters and assistant Scoutmasters.

For more information, email or call Gene Barney at gbarney1959@gmail.com or 815-262-7919.

To register: <http://www.blackhawkscouting.org/Event.aspx?id=1160>

Introduction Outdoor Leadership Skills Training

Rockford Rotary Forest Preserve

5580 Rotary Road, Cherry Valley

Friday, May 6, at 6:00 p.m. to Saturday, May 7, at 5:00 p.m.

Working as patrols, this course provides leaders the skills they need to lead Scouts in the outdoors. Upon completion, leaders should feel comfortable teaching the basic skills required to obtain the First Class rank.

Along with Scoutmaster Specifics, this course is required of all direct contact leaders registered in Boy Scout troops and Varsity Scout teams, in order to be considered "trained."

The cost is \$20 per participant to cover food and forest preserve expenses.

For further information, email or call Gene Barney at 815-398-9371, 815-262-7919 or gbarney1959@gmail.com

To register: <http://www.blackhawkscouting.org/Event.aspx?id=1017>

Boy Scouts - Troop Committee Challenge

Available as an in-house training upon request!

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



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.



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.

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



District Recognitions

Several outstanding Scouters will be recognized at the District Recognition Dinner.

Nominations for these recognitions must be received at the council service center by March 1.

The "District Award of Merit" is the highest award that a district can present to a volunteer.

The "Outstanding Award" includes the Outstanding Leader and Outstanding Committee Member.

The "Unit Spirit Award" can be awarded to one individual in each unit. The individuals do not have to be registered leaders, but should motivate others, work tirelessly, and have a positive influence on all that they come in contact with.

Copies of these nomination forms are available at the district Web site -- BlackhawkScouting.org/Wanchanagi.



Wanchanagi District Dinner

April 17

Council Program Center

3:30 Check-in, 4:00 Dinner

The 2016 Wanchanagi District Dinner will be held at the Council Program Center in Cherry Valley, 7194 Vandiver Road, on Sunday, April 17.

Now is a great time to nominate that outstanding person in your unit to be recognized for all that they do! The nominations deadline is March 1st and all district and unit awards will be presented at the Dinner. Bring the whole family!

Reservations can be made at the council service center up to April 12, end of the day.

The fee is \$18 per person.

To register or to obtain nomination forms for an award, go to <http://www.blackhawkscouting.org/Wanchanagi/Events/2016WANDinner>

Wanchanagi District Dinner

Sunday, April 17

3:30 p.m.

Council Program Center

7194 Vandiver Road, Cherry Valley

Name _____ Unit _____

Attending _____ \$18/person = \$ _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Make check payable to Blackhawk Area Council

Mail or drop off at Blackhawk Area Council, 2820 McFarland Road, Rockford IL 61107

Klondike Derby Winners



The Cobra Patrol from Troop 123 was the overall winner at Klondike



Mark Broman and Fran Waller

Save the Date Day Camp Is Coming!

Boone County Day Camp
Boone County Conservation District
June 8-10
June 13-15

Western Winnebago Day Camp
Winnebago County Fairgrounds
July 11-14

Harlem Day Camp
Kieselburg Forest Preserve
July 12-15

Program Center Day Camp
Council Program Center
July 18-22



More details and online registration information coming soon!



Boy Scout Troop 601 Spaghetti Dinner

March 12, 2016
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm
North Park Fire
Harlem Road Station

Advance tickets may be purchased during
Wednesday meetings at same location
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Adults \$5.00 – Children \$4.00

\$1.00 more per ticket at the door
Dinner includes:

All you can eat spaghetti with 2 meatballs
Salad, dessert and coffee or punch
Proceeds to purchase camping needs.
(tents, stove, coolers, life jackets, and more)



Soil and Water Conservation Merit Badge

Boone County Conservation District

Saturday, April 9, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Minimum: 5 Scouts, Maximum: 20 Scouts

Cost: \$5 per Scout/in-county; \$8 per Scout/out-of-county

For Registration: Contact Tina Dawson – tdawson@bccdil.org

The Boone County Conservation District will be offering the Soil and Water Conservation merit badge on April 9, 2016. BCCD is coordinating with Klehm and Burpee to offer badges that are eligible for the Hornaday Award.

Bring: lunch, water bottle, work gloves, blue merit badge card.

Be dressed to work outside cutting brush after lunch. (Required for badge completion – no exceptions.)

Presented by Boone County Conservation District, 603 N. Appleton Road, Belvidere, 815-547-7935.

Registration fee must be pre-paid.

Learn about conservation and how our natural resources can be cared for properly. This merit badge is a requirement for the Hornaday Badge and the World Conservation Award.

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



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

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.

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: Alex Segneri

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

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

OA Advisor:

Rick Rhoads, 562-4369

rrhoads63@aol.com

OA Chapter Chief:

Alan H.

Boy Scout Leader Training Chair:

Gregg Ripley, 631-6399

gwrpley61071@yahoo.com

Cub Scout Leader Training:

Gregg Ripley, 631-6399

gwrpley61071@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: Robert Sutton

Robert.Sutton@scouting.org

815-397-0210

White Eagle District Calendar

February

- 26-28 Venturing Blast, Camp Lowden
- 27 Scouting for Food flyer distribution

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
- 19 Cub Scout Event Day at Midway Village Museum, Rockford
- 25 Good Friday, council service center closed

April

- 2 District Recognition Dinner
- 5 *Courier* copy due -- Internet edition for May through August events
- 6 Order of the Arrow
- 7 District Committee meeting
- 9-10 Council Pinewood Derby
- 14 District Commissioners meeting
- 14 Roundtable
- 16 BALOO training
- 17 First Aid and Medicine Merit Badge Day
- 21 Council Annual Meeting
- 21 Council Coordinated Committee Meetings
- 22-24 U. S. Grant Pilgrimage, Galena
- 30 - May 1 Canyon Camp Work Weekend

May

- 4 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting
- 5 District Committee meeting
- 10 *Courier* copy due -- Internet edition for May through August events
- 12 District Commissioners meeting
- 12 Roundtable
- 30 Memorial Day -- Council service center closed



Roundtables

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

Save the Date!

BALOO

Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation April 16

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



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.

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Scouting for Food 2016

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You can view this year's "Scouting for Food Good Turn for America Unit Participation Packet" on the council's Web site -- BlackhawkScouting.org.

Please see your unit commissioner or district executive for further information.



White Eagle First Aid and Medicine Merit Badge Clinic

On March 19 the White Eagle District will host a First Aid and Medicine Merit Badge Day at the CGH Medical Center, 100 E. LeFevre, Sterling, Illinois. Registration will start at 8:00 a.m. and the first session will begin at 9:00. The event will end at 4:00.

Registration fee of \$8.00 for Scouts and \$6 for adults is due by March 14, 2011. Walk-ins will be accepted. Lunch will be provided.

For the First Aid merit badge, please make sure that all first aid requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks have been completed prior to attending.

For further information contact Keith Potter at 815-564-7617 or Don Rastede at 815-625-3542.

White Eagle District Scouter's Recognition Dinner

Saturday, April 2, 2016

White Pines LaBranche

610 S. Division Avenue

Polo, Illinois

District Award of Merit and Making A Difference Award Recipients will be announced and recognized.

Cost: \$20 a person by March 17. After March 18 — \$25 a person.

Gathering at 5:00 p.m. — Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Great Food (Buffet) and Fun

Lots of Door Prizes

Uniform Optional

Cash Bar

Reservations need to be made by March 17, 2016

Checks Payable to Blackhawk Area Council. Send reservation to

Rosemary Matthiessen, 21491 Hazel Road, Sterling IL 61081

Questions? Contact Rosemary at 815-441-7126

Indicate Name, Unit, Number of People

White Eagle Scouter's Appreciation Dinner

Saturday, April 2, 2016

Cost is \$20 per person if RSVP is in by March 17

After that date it will be \$25 a person

Unit # _____

_____ # people at \$20 by March 17 (\$25 March 18 or later)

Amount enclosed = \$ _____

Reservations need to be made by March 17, 2016

Make checks payable to Blackhawk Area Council.

Send to Rosemary Matthiessen, 21491 Hazel Road, Sterling IL 61081

List names of the people attending

Building a Volunteer Program with Food and Fun

Everyone wants Scouting in White Eagle District to be as strong a program as possible. That program grows best when we all help each other. The times we can meet, socialize, and relax together help us all and help the district. Scouting has to be a group effort.

Our White Eagle Scouters' Appreciation Dinner is an opportunity to recognize accomplishments and build our program. It only works well when everyone participates. It's fun, has great food, helps build the district program, is cheap, and close to home.

How many more reason does a Scouter need to attend? See you there April 2, 2016, at The LaBranche Inn in Polo. Cost is still \$20 per person. Gathering is 5 p.m. with dinner at 5:30.

Photo is proof that Scouters have fun, and we give you things!



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

District Dinner and Awards

Laura Welti

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

FOS, Gene Nott, 235-4575

Community Campaign (open)

Vice-Chair – Membership: (open)

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 (open)

Training : (open)

Boy Scout –

Cub Scout –

Venturing –

Religious Emphasis –

Vice-Chair – Venturing and Exploring

Joe Shippy, 266-0649

District Commissioner

Jim Clay, 970-443-2997

Roundtable Commissioners

Boy Scout – Rick Cass, 757-7424

Cub Scout –

District Executive: Matt Ohms

920-723-5999,

matt.ohms@scouting.org

815-397-0210

Wetassa District Calendar

February

- 26-28 Venturing Blast, Camp Lowden
- 27 Scouting for Food flyer distribution

March

- 2 District Commissioner Staff meeting
- 2 District Committee meeting
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- 4 District Committee meeting
- 7 Commissioner Planning Conference
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- 30 Memorial Day -- Council service center closed



Roundtable Meeting New Location!

Bethany United Church of Christ
2341 West Stephenson Street Road
Freeport, IL 61032.

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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

Wetassa Committee Members Needed

The following positions are open and need Scouters to fill out the district committee roster. Now is the time to take the leap and find something new to tackle and find new friends in the process. You will be glad you did!

For further information for each of these positions, please contact Rick Cass, Wetassa District Chair, at 815-757-7425.

Thanks in advance for your help.

District Communications/PR – Chair and members

District Nominating Committee – 1 more member

Finance: Community Campaign – members

Vice-Chair – Membership

Activities:

Boy Scout – members

Cub Scout – members

Scouting For Food – Chairman

Training – Chair needed:

Boy Scout members

Cub Scout members

Venturing – members needed

Religious Emblems Coordinator

Roundtable:

Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner

Cub Scout roundtable staff members

Boy Scout roundtable staff

District Dinner Committee – All positions

Unit Commissioners – Multiple Openings



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

February

- 21 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting -- Monroe
- 26-28 Venturing Blast, Camp Lowden
- 27 Scouting for Food flyer distribution

March

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

April

- 5 *Courier* copy due -- Internet edition for May through August events
- 6 District Committee meeting
- 9-10 Council Pinewood Derby
- 13 District Recognition Dinner
- 17 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting, Monroe
- 21 Council Annual Meeting
- 21 Council Coordinated Committee Meetings
- 22-24 U. S. Grant Pilgrimage, Galena
- 30 - May 1 Canyon Camp Work Weekend

May

- 4 District Committee meeting
- 7 Commissioner Planning Conference
- 10 *Courier* copy due -- Internet edition for May through August events
- 11 District Commissioner meeting
- 11 Roundtable
- 15 Order of the Arrow chapter meeting, Platteville
- 30 Memorial Day -- Council service center closed

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.

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



Green County Scouting for Food March 5 and March 12

Green County's (Wisconsin) Scouting for Food drive is March 5th and March 12th. We will meet March 5th in the south Twining Park parking lot at 9 a.m. to distribute flyers. On March 12th, we will meet at the parking lot next to the Green County Food Pantry at 9 a.m. for food pick up.

We hope you and your Scouts can make it!

Tamara Richardson
Venturing Crew 1812 Advisor

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*

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!

STEM and More

2016 Merit Badge Midway was a great success.

What do sturgeon migration, semaphore signaling, and Martian mining have in common? Scouts learned about these things, and much, much more at the Arrowhead District Merit Badge Midway in early February.

The Midway takes advantage of the outstanding STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) resources available at the University of Wisconsin–Platteville. The one-day event served more than 130 Scouts from the Blackhawk Area Council and the surrounding area.

Scouts could pick from a list of 23 merit badges, from American Heritage and Genealogy to Nuclear Science, Engineering and Digital Technology. Adult training was also offered throughout the day.

Jim Bussan chaired the event and recruited a staff of highly qualified counselors. Scouts learned from volunteers from the UW-Platteville chemistry, engineering, physics, chemistry, and biology departments, along with Scout leaders who lent their expertise to the Midway.

Reviews from Scout leaders were glowing. They liked the fact that it was a one-day event and felt that the building was well suited for teaching STEM merit badges. Having the pre-Midway assignments early played a big role in their satisfaction, since Scouts were able to work on the pre-work at troop meetings leading up to the Midway.

Many people contributed to the great outcome. Thanks go out to all of the counselors who gave of their precious time to teach the merit badges, to work with the boys, and make this day a success. Thanks also to all of the leaders who worked with the boys ahead of time, who made sure the boys got to the event, and knew what classes they were enrolled in. Thanks to the boys who worked hard to receive their merit badges. Special thanks to the Scouts and parents of Troop 84 who provided the snacks and the excellent dinner.

Planning is already underway for the 2017 Midway.



Spring Is Around the Corner

Do you have a summer program planned?

Spring is around the corner. Does your unit have a summer program in place to "Deliver the Promise" we made when new Cub Scouts or Boy Scouts signed up in the fall?

Cub Scout Day Camps

Cub Scout summer camp is a great way to Deliver the Promise. Here in Arrowhead we have two great Cub Scout summer camps. Lancaster Day camp, at the Grant County Fair Ground June 20 through the 23 if you live on the western side of the district, and Monroe day camp August 8 through the 10 at the Green County Fair Grounds.

Spring Recruiting

Arrowhead has done a great job with Spring Recruitment the past few years and we want to continue. March is the time of year to reach out to schools in your community and set up plans for Spring sign up and also lay the ground work for our Fall sign up.

Webelos Scout Transition to Troops

This is also the time of year that fifth-grade Webelos Scouts are finalizing their choice of troops they are crossing into. We have a list of Webelos Scouts who are old enough to join Boy Scouts. It is vital for us as a district to keep track of if a boy is crossing over. An email has gone out to the packs and troops asking what boys are crossing over. Please respond to Matt (matt.ohms@scouting.org) with what you know. Boys that we do not know about will need a call from the Scoutmaster to come and visit the troop.

For the last several years 70% of the Webelos Scouts have not joined Boy Scouts. It is vital to the future of Scouting that we change this trend. So far this year of the total 78 Webelos Scouts in the district, we only know of 19 who are crossing over. This is a great time to get more boys in your troop, and with those boys are two more adults who can help in some way.



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
Zach Crowe
Dave Keller
Rich Noble
Dan Persinger
Lanekahm Phetmyxay
Collina Roselas
Terry Serrano
Roger Steder

District Executive

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

Scoutreach District Calendar

February

- 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

April

- 5 *Courier* copy due -- Internet edition for May through August events
- 9-10 Council Pinewood Derby
- 21 Council Annual Meeting
- 21 Council Coordinated Committee Meetings
- 22-24 U. S. Grant Pilgrimage, Galena
- 23 Bus trip to Grant Pilgrimage in Galena

May

- 7 Commissioner Planning Conference
- 10 *Courier* copy due -- Internet edition for May through August events
- 30 Memorial Day -- Council service center closed
- 30 Memorial Day parade

A Busy Month

The ScoutReach District has had a busy first month of 2016! The ScoutReach boys have participated in many activities including advancement and games. Many of the boys have earned their Bobcat badge and many have earned the Webelos rank. Potato racing was a very popular game.

ScoutReach is gearing up for an even busier spring. Some upcoming events are the following:

ScoutReach Pinewood Derby Workshop

February 20, 0:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Booker Washington Center, 524 Kent St., Rockford

Bring your pinewood derby car to get help building it. You will also get speed tips. Cars can be purchased at the event.



ScoutReach Pinewood Derby Race

March 12, 1:00 p.m.

Patriots Gateway – 625 S. 5th St., Rockford

Scouting for Food 2016

Scouting for Food is right around the corner. On February 27th Scouts will distribute door hanger. Food Collection Day is March 5th when Scouts will return to pick up food for local food pantries.

You can view this year's "Scouting for Food Good Turn for America Unit Participation Packet" on the council's Web site BlackhawkScouting.org.

Please see your unit commissioner or district executive for further information.





ScoutReach Pack 208 at Rockford Day Nursery discussing Youth Protection.



Kishwaukee School, potato races.



Clothespin Tag -- Pack 233 Ellis



Clothespine Tag -- Pack 233, Ellis School

Clothespin Tag

Hand any number of clothespins to all the kids (the more clothespins everyone starts with, the longer the game lasts.) and have them pin them to their shirt sleeves, hems, pockets, etc.

Then have them all scatter on the playing field. On the signal, everyone runs around snatching clothes-pins from one another, kneeling down to attach their newly acquired prizes.

At the end of the game (usually a time-limit), the one with the most clothespins wins.



Pack 526
Kishwaukee School



Pack 22, Gregory School

District Blue and Gold Banquet

We had reservations for 50 guests at the ScoutReach Blue and Gold Banquet on February 13. Many more came! The total count was 112, including staff and Boy Scouts.

