

Goose Creek District Newsletter



November 2012

Volume 4, Issue 4

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Quality of an Eagle Scout



One of the more common emails I receive concerns the frustrations of Scoutmaster's who are faced with a boy they just don't consider has done enough, cares enough or is good enough to become an Eagle Scout. They want to know what to do.

There's a big difference between my idealized Eagle Scout and what's required to earn the rank. I realized this after twenty or thirty of my Scouts earned Eagle and none of them perfectly matched my expectations. The next twenty or thirty haven't either. So it goes.

In the end my expectations (and yours too) are unimportant – when a Scout meets the requirements he is an Eagle Scout. Each does it in their own way, on their own terms. Some are terrifically frustrating and nonchalant about the way their selfishness affects other people but they somehow complete the requirements anyway.

Scouters argue constantly over what constitutes an Eagle Scout, how we want them to act and what qualities we expect of them. Thankfully the official literature is reallively silent on these things, and for a good reason – each one is an individual and is evaluated on his own merits according to his abilities and interests – not against those of every other Eagle Scout nor anyone's idealized concept of what they ought to be.

Of course we want representatives of this honored fraternity to be of unimpeachable character, tremendous resourcefulness and exemplary citizenship. We cannot see into their hearts and minds, we can't compare their will and courage against others; each has their own individual challenges to overcome.

Old men get cranky and stodgy – we live with our own failures every day and it's infuriating to see others repeat them. We forget how we were when we were young, how little we knew, how selfish we were. Even if we possess this knowledge of ourselves we still want a young man a third or half our age and experience to be better than we were – that's a frustrating way to be.

Most Scouts who have achieved Eagle in my tenure have gone on to be good solid citizens; college professors, lawyers, wonderful fathers and husbands, doctors, military officers and other similarly respectable achievements. A few have had trouble with the law, dropped out of school and are generally troublesome to their families and society as a whole. What they all have in common was they were given an opportunity to make something of themselves in a way that a relatively few boys will experience. They have many years ahead of them. Many lessons to learn and much work to do – their stories are still being written.

You and I have little control over who they will become – we can only present them with an opportunity to make good. What they do with this opportunity is up to them. There's one set of requirements and, while you *can* take what some consider short cuts and half measures to fulfill them, the important thing is that they get there. They have the rest of their lives to consider how they did it; what they are proud of and what they they could have done better.

What they need, what we all need, is at least one person who can believe in them, who is unfailingly encouraging and supportive: hopefully we can be that person.

Special Interest:

District

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Training

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Quick Calendar:

- Nov 3 & 10 – Scouting for Food
- Nov 14 – Roundtable
- Nov 17 – PowWow
- Dec 12 – Roundtable
- Dec 19 – Annual Business Meeting
- Jan 9 – Roundtable
- Jan 19 – BSL Specific Training
- Jan 25-27 – Freeze-o-ree

Newsletter Key:

-  Cub Scout Interest
-  Boy Scout / Venturing Interest
-  For Everyone

District News

District Website: www.GooseCreekDistrict.org

Rechartering



Did you know that your unit has an expiration date? That's the date that your current charter ends: December 31, 2012. If your rechartering packet is not turned in to Council **prior** to that date then effectively your unit stops being part of the Boy Scouts of America, insurance coverage stops, you are not to hold meetings or activities, and rank advancements stop. So, if you haven't already picked up your recharter packet, assigned an adult to head the process, or started the process then what are you waiting for! And if you think this paperwork is a lot, its nothing compared to what you have to do to get reactivated if you miss the deadline.

The Goose Creek Internet Recharter Window opens November 1, 2012. Go to www.BoyScouts-NCAC.org/commissioner-service/unit-rechartering/16889 to start the process, to view a tutorial on the process, or to ask for help. Once you have completed the internet process you will still need to print out the results, get it signed by your unit leader and Institutional Head, and turn it in, along with a check for the fees (and remember to include insurance). Turn in dates and locations for the recharter packets will be:

- Nov 7, 6:30-9:00 PM – Leesburg United Methodist Church (107 West Main Street Leesburg).
- Nov 13, 6:30-9:00 PM – Countryside Starbucks (3 Pidgeon Hill Drive, Sterling).
- Nov 28, 6:30-9:00 PM – Leesburg United Methodist.
- Dec 4, 6:30-9:00 PM – Countryside Starbucks.

Questions or issues? Please contact Mike.Perry@Scouting.org

Important Advice: The recharter paperwork must be signed by the unit leader (Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, Crew Advisor) and by the Institutional Head (this is the head of you charter organization). Your Committee Chair and assistant Scoutmasters, etc. cannot sign for the unit leader. Your Charter Organization Representative (COR) cannot sign for the Institutional Head. Check now on the availability of these two people before starting the paperwork. It does not help to finish everything and then find out one of them is out of town for a week or two, especially since this is a heavy holiday/travel season.

Webelos Invitation to a Campout



Troop 966 (<http://members.doubleknot.com/Troop966>) invites Goose Creek District's Webelos II's to camp with us at Lake Fairfax on Nov 17th and/or to come to our open house troop meeting on Monday, Nov 19th (7:30 - 9:00 PM at the Sterling Ruritan Club, 183 Ruritan Road, Sterling). Webelos and their parents are welcome to camp overnight or just visit for a day of fun activities.

Please RSVP to [CommitteeChair @ Troop966.org](mailto:CommitteeChair@Troop966.org)

Silver Beaver Nominations



This national award is the highest form of recognition that a local council can bestow on an adult volunteer. Established in 1931, the Silver Beaver Award is presented for distinguished service to people within a BSA local council. A recipient must be a registered adult volunteer member of the BSA and show significant service and leadership in three areas: Boy Scouts, youth programs other than Boy Scouts, and the community.

It is extremely important that the nomination form includes information about all three of the service and leadership areas. The Council review committee can base their decision only on the submitted documentation and missing or ambiguous information often means that a deserving person does not get the award.

In order to ensure that all Goose Creek nominations have the best information before they are sent in to Council the District has set up a Goose Creek Silver Beaver Review committee. The purpose of this committee is not to decide which nominations to send in, but to review the nominations and to identify where additional information or clarification should be included. All members of the committee are Silver Beaver recipients including some who have served on the Council review committee.

For nomination forms and submittal information: On the District web page select Resources and Help from the menu and go to the listing for the 2012 Silver Beaver nominations (or just click on the big silver colored beaver in the upper left hand corner of the splash page). All nominations must be in to the committee by Nov 15.

Goose Creek Email Distribution Lists



Goose Creek District maintains a number of email distribution lists that we use to provide for quick dissemination of information to our Scouts, Scouters, and families. This includes notices of upcoming events and important district news such as rechartering, JSN, camporees, this newsletter, etc. Here are some of the mailing lists currently available:

- PACKS** – Cub Scout Packs
- TROOPS** – Boy Scout Troops
- CREWS** – Venture Crews

There's no limit to the number of people from a unit that may subscribe to the lists, so multiple leaders from each unit should subscribe. It's strongly recommended that at a minimum, each unit have the following leaders on the list for their unit; Unit Leader, Advancement Chair, Committee Chair. This will enhance the exposure to three critical portions of the unit's operation, and eliminate any single-point-of-failure in getting time-critical communication into the hands of the right people.

To be subscribed to one or more mailing lists, send an email to our Communications Committee at Communications@GooseCreekDistrict.org. In your message, please include your name, unit affiliation(s), and the list(s) you wish to subscribe to. You can unsubscribe to a list by sending an email to the same addresses.

“Onward and Upward” On the Advancement Trail

New Eagles



Congratulations to Goose Creek's newest Eagle Scouts:

Prathik Anand - Troop 966

Alexander M Barrett - Troop 966

Tyler L Cook - Troop 982

Avery S Hare - Troop 982

Devon J Kirk - Troop 961

Jacob Ian Lade - Troop 1158

Nicholas D Logan - Troop 1558

Colin J McArdle - Troop 1154

Robert R McCurdy - Troop 1550

Timothy C Roth - Troop 966

Donald Taylor - Troop 961

Eagle Scout Rank Application Reminders

- Date Joined Scouting: A boy becomes a Boy Scout the day his parents sign the youth application; not the day he earns his “Scout” patch (which is not a rank, since there is no Board of Review).
- In completing Eagle Scout Rank Applications (ESRA), units should compare all dates on the ESRA to the records in ScoutNet by printing a "Scout record" and ensuring that all dates match. Recall, for Merit Badges, “Blue Cards Rule”. If ScoutNet has dates that differ from those that appear on the Blue Cards, ScoutNet must be updated using Internet Advancement (IA).
- Finally, only the 2011 or 2012 versions of the ESRA are accepted at the Council office. Anything older than the 2011 version will be returned to the unit/scout. The current ESRA can be downloaded from the National BSA website at www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-728_web.pdf

Special Needs Scouting



The Council has recently established a new adjunct to the NCAC Advancement & Recognition Committee for ‘Special Needs Scouting’ (formerly known as ‘Scouting With Disabilities’). Membership on this committee is comprised of representatives from each district, and in response to the appeal made in the October Goose Creek Newsletter, the district Advancement Committee has a new member.

Please join me in welcoming Claudia Wolfson to this honored position. Claudia will be ‘spinning up’ over the next few months, connecting with her peers in other districts, and/or that at Council. Her primary role in this capacity is to serve you all; answering your questions about the kinds of things National has done to make the BSA program more successful to our ‘Special Needs’ youth. Claudia can be reached via email at ClaudiaWolfson@gmail.com. Thank you, Claudia! (By all means, if anyone else would like to join Claudia, perhaps splitting the duties between the older and younger units, please let Brad Scales know ... at MSVA_Tenor@yahoo.com.)

Eagle Required Merit Badges Changes (Soon)



The Boy Scouts of America's National Executive Board recently announced that two merit badges will be joining the list of Eagle-required merit badges over the next 14 months – **Sustainability** and **Cooking**.

Sustainability, a new merit badge, will join Environmental Science as an Eagle Scout option after its debut at the **2013 National Jamboree**.

Cooking, meanwhile, will become Eagle-required as of **Jan. 1, 2014**. Regardless when a Scout earned the Life rank or began working on Eagle, unless he fulfills all the requirements – with the exception of his Board of Review – before January 1, 2014, he must earn the **Cooking** merit badge to become an Eagle Scout.

The total number of merit badges required for the Eagle Scout Award **will remain at 21**. In other words, instead of there being 12 Eagle-required badges and 9 elective badges, a Scout must earn 13 Eagle-required and 8 elective badges.

Why the change? According to the BSA's resolution, the goal is to "reflect a better balance of the needs of youth and our nation today and in the future". Sustainability becomes more important as our population increases amidst decreasing resources. Similarly, a boy who reaches Eagle without skills in cooking and healthy eating habits hasn't become fully "Prepared. For Life."

Below is the list of required merit badges as it is now – and as it will look in 2014!

Current

- First Aid
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Communication
- Personal Fitness•
- Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving
- Environmental Science
- Personal Management
- Swimming OR Hiking OR Cycling
- Camping
- Family Life

Effective Jan 1, 2014

- First Aid
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Communication
- Personal Fitness
- Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving
- Environmental Science **OR Sustainability**
- Personal Management
- Swimming OR Hiking OR Cycling
- Camping
- Family Life
- **Cooking**

Once the Cooking merit badge becomes Eagle-required in 2014, anyone who has already earned the badge will be able to count it towards Eagle; it won't matter if it's earned under existing or new requirements.

Historically, the Cooking merit badge has been a "required" or "not required" going back to the 1940s; and most Eagle Scouts prior to that earned it as a matter of course without regard to whether it was "required" or not.

The justification for the Cooking merit badge to be taken off the required list was simple: the skills which an Eagle Scout was supposed to have, in the past, centered around outdoor activities. When BSA attempted to "urbanize" the Boy Scouting program, Cooking and Pioneering – along with other outdoor skill merit badges – were dropped in favor of "globally applicable" merit badges like Family Life and Personal Management. (You can still find on eBay the Cooking merit badge with a silver border; going for as much as \$12).

The Sustainability merit badge is brand new. Requirements have not been finalized nor released. The merit badge will be introduced during the National Scout Jamboree next summer. Beginning with the official release date, Scouts will have the option of choosing either Sustainability or Environmental Science as one the 13 Eagle-required merit badge.

Goose Creek District Advancement Committee Changes



Long-standing Eagle Adviser, Bernie Halprin has resigned his position on the Committee after many, many years of loyal service to our youth. Given his popularity, and the large number of units that have turned to him 'by default' for their Eagle Candidates for years, it seems appropriate to take this opportunity to share the current 'slate' of Eagle Advisers in Goose Creek. Please note that while each is listed by 'geographic area', Scouts/Units are free to select anyone they choose.

Ashburn – Broadlands Areas

Edward J. Thiede ... 20528 Flattop Ct, Ashburn, 20147
Tel: 703-729-4187 Email: ThiedeE@gmail.com

South Riding Area

Mark A. Keefe ... 43230 Chase St, South Riding, 20152
Tel: 703-327-3038 Email: MKeefe@nrahq.org

Broad Run – Countryside – Cascades Area

Tonia L. Chagnon ... 21483 Rusty Blackhaw Sq, Sterling, 20164
Tel: 703-955-1748 Email: BETChagnon@gmail.com

Sugarland Run – Sterling – Lowes Island Area

Michael Egerer ... 20811 Quiet Brook Pl, Potomac Falls, 20165
Tel: 703-835-6001 Email: MikeEgerer@aol.com

Leesburg Area

Stephen R. Hess ... 706 Duncan Pl SE, Leesburg 20175
Tel: 703-728-1059 Email: HessS1971@aol.com

Purcellville – Hamilton Area

Kurt L. Struder ... 17723 Karen Hope Ct, Hamilton, 20158
Tel: 540-338-3433 Email: Kurt.Struder@us.army.mil

or

Thomas E. Hayes ... 17542 Falls Place, Round Hill, 20141
Tel: 540-751-1674 Email: THayes@NVRInc.com

Western Loudoun Area (in-training)

Deanna Solomon ... 40845 Clifford Ct, Waterford, 20197
Tel: (unlisted) Email: DTexasNCAC@gmail.com

LDS Units (& Western Loudoun Area)

Michael John Blaylock ... 223 South 12th Street, Purcellville, 20132
Tel: 540-338-0414 Email: MJBlaylock@gmail.com

NESA Scholarships - 2013



Do you know an Eagle (or soon-to-be Eagle) who is graduating high school and entering college in 2013? The time has arrived for Eagle Scouts to apply for 2013 National Eagle Scout Association scholarships.

First, see who's eligible for up to \$446,000 in scholarships:

- An Eagle Scout having passed the board of review on or before Dec. 31, 2012.
- A graduating high-school senior (for academic and merit scholarships) or an undergraduate college student no later than completion of his junior year of college (for merit scholarships only).
- A NESA member.

The third requirement of NESA membership is new this year. If a new Eagle isn't currently a NESA member, he must first join the organization to be considered for NESA scholarship. (Within the first six months of an Eagle Scout's board of review, a "special" one-year NESA membership is \$20.)

Investing in a NESA membership opens the door for Eagle Scouts to earn up to \$446,000 in college scholarships.

The applications are now "live" at www.NESA.org/2013_scholarships.html. Applications are due Dec. 31, 2012.

Go to <http://blog.ScoutingMagazine.org/2012/10/04/eagles-apply-now-for-2013-nesa-scholarships/> for a full list of the available 2013 NESA scholarships.

Geology Merit Badge At GMU

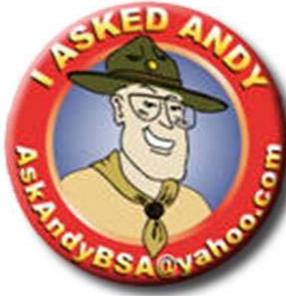


The Northern Virginia Mineral Club is again sponsoring an opportunity for Scouts to complete requirements toward the Geology merit badge at its annual Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Show. This event is scheduled for November 17th and 18th at the George Mason University Student Union II building. Scouts in uniform can enter this event FREE.

Jim Kostka, an Eagle Scout and the co-chair for this show, is also seeking help from adults interested in helping with the Geology MB activity. Registered counselors are particularly being sought. If you are interested, please contact Jim directly at: www.VolunteerSpot.com/login/entry/854090764092 or calling him at 202-207-5437.

For additional information: www.BoyScouts-NCAC.org/event/1247126

From Dear Andy (No. 328 – September 30, 2012)



Hi Andy!

About “blue cards”—merit badge applications—when is a “blue card” considered signed off by the Counselor? It has three sections: Counselor’s Record, Applicant’s Record, and Troop Record. Some have said that the Counselor has to sign off on the back of the Applicant’s Record for each one of the individual requirements. I’ve even seen MB Counselors note that all requirements are met, and then sign across the lines. But others say that Counselor only needs to sign that the Scout has completed the requirements on the Troop Record portion, and that the detailed requirements listing on the back can be left blank. Is it both, either, or something else?

A merit badge application (aka “blue card”) has three segments or sections: The Council Section, the Applicant’s (i.e., Scout’s) Section, and the Counselor’s Section. The matrix on the back of the Applicant’s Section is for the Counselor and Scout to use for requirement completion tracking; it’s not “mandatory”—it simply aids tracking. When a Scout has completed all requirements, the Counselor signs the Applicant’s Section (the front of what is titled, APPLICANT’S RECORD) and the Council Section, adding his or her contact information to that Section, and enters the date of completion on all three sections.

The Counselor retains the Counselor’s Section and gives the remaining two sections (still attached to one another) to the Scout. The Scout then obtains the signature of his Scoutmaster (called “Unit Leader” on the form, to allow for Team Coaches, Venturing Advisors, and Skippers) on those two sections. The Scout retains the Applicant’s Section/APPLICANT’S RECORD for himself; the Scoutmaster gives the remaining Council Section to the troop’s advancement coordinator for recording and submission to the council service center.

If the matrix is blank, this is irrelevant so long as the Counselor’s signatures are in their proper places.

To verify what I’ve just described, go to http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Merit_Badge_Application and click on “Online Merit Badge Application.”

You might have been a Scouter too long when:



- You were arrested by airport security because you wouldn't give up your official BSA pocket knife until the cop said "got it".
- You have to go to the restroom and you start looking for a buddy.
- You have a special woven belt loop cup holder

Council / National News

Council Website: www.BoyScouts-NCAC.org

Presidential Inauguration



Scouts have served at every presidential inauguration since Woodrow Wilson's in 1913. It is anticipated that our service will be needed for the 2013 Inauguration, which will be held on Monday, January 21st. Currently, Council is inviting troops, crews and posts to express their interest in participating. Once the Presidential Inaugural Committee is organized and they decide how they would like the Scouts to participate, interested units will be contacted with specific responsibilities.

If you have units that will like to participate please have them complete the survey at www.boyscouts-ncac.org/presidential

BSA to use Scout Oath and Scout Law for All Programs



It's official: The resolution to move to one Oath and Law for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity, Sea Scouts, and Venturing was approved by the Boy Scouts of America's executive board.

Essentially, this means every Scout of any age will use the Scout Oath and Law instead of reciting separate, program-specific sayings. Cub Scouts will recite the Scout Oath and Law instead of the Cub Scout Promise and Law of the Pack. Similarly, Venturers will no longer use the Venturing Oath and Venturing Code. For the Cubs, the handshake, sign and salute stay as they are – the sometimes-awkward two fingers up the wrist, the two fingers held high, reminding our boys to help and obey. And even though the Cub Scout no longer promises to follow Akela, the concept is still vital and used throughout the Cub program.

Because it will take time to transition into this new approach, the changes are not immediate. The Venturing change will not happen until late 2013 or early 2014; the Cub Scout change will take effect in mid-2015.

Additionally, the newly adopted resolution replaces the full-hand Venturing sign and salute with the three-finger Boy Scout sign and salute.

Cubcast



Your message was heard loud and clear, and a revamped Cubcast is on its way this November. Its creators are promising a new and improved version designed to serve you better. For October, though, the Cubcast folks are sending us back in time. They're rebroadcasting last October's episode, a classic that covered Citizenship and the BeAScout program.

There's also other big news: A Boy Scout version of Cubcast (which we can only assume won't be called "Cubcast") is on its way in January 2013!

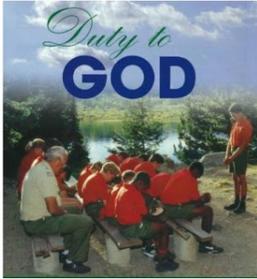
To get Cubcasts go to www.scouting.org/scoutcast.aspx and select CubCast along the bottom strip of the video display area. On the right side of the display is an 'Archives' button that will let you select previous podcasts.

2013 Journey to Excellence Scorecards



The new 2013 Journey to Excellence scorecards for packs, troops, teams, and crews are now online. Go to www.Scouting.org/jte and look for the box labeled "2013 Scorecards."

New Committee Position



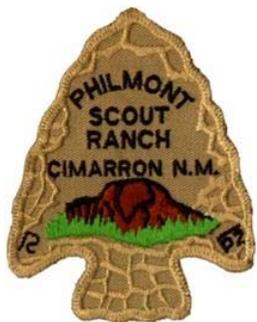
Help make "A Scout is Reverent" more than just words recited at a troop meeting. Find someone in your pack or troop to fill the new Unit Religious Emblems Coordinator (UREC) position.

The UREC, recognized as a position on the unit committee, was created to strengthen units by building an infrastructure that would create cohesiveness between units and district- and council-level volunteers, ultimately to better serve youth members in the realm of Duty to God.

The responsibility of the coordinator is to educate, motivate, evaluate, and facilitate the religious emblems program at the unit level. In addition to serving on the unit committee, a key function of the position is to serve as the liaison to the District Religious Emblems Coordinator. Of course there is a new patch being developed to accompany the position.

Additional information regarding the position, including a complete position description, can be found on the Membership Resources page on scouting.org: www.Scouting.org/ScoutSource/Membership.aspx

High Adventure Opportunities



NCAC has the following provisional Philmont Treks available for 2013:

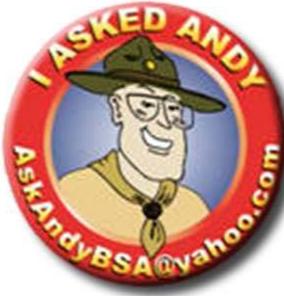
- P705 (July 3-July 17)
- P713 (July 11-July 25)
- P720 (July 18-August 1).

The cost is \$1950, and all travel will be arranged by the Council. For more information, contact Dave.Talbott@uspto.gov. For registration forms go to: www.BoyScouts-NCAC.org/openrosters/DocDownload.aspx?orgkey=1988&id=91940

Want High Adventure a little closer to home? In 2013 there will be two provisional crews at Lenhok'sin, dates to be determined. Watch the Lenhok'sin webpage for more information:

www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/ViewOrgPageLink.asp?LinkKey=47443&orgkey=1933

From Dear Andy (No. 331 – October 21, 2012)



Hello Andy,

I have been following a discussion on LinkedIn about whether or not the BSA considers tearing off the corners of a Totin' Chip hazing. One participant mentioned a ruling by the BSA back in the '90s that tearing corners off is a form of hazing and that the correct course of action is to take the card and have the Scout re-train and earn it back. Personally, I like that course of action because sooner or later a recalcitrant Scout will take the responsibilities conferred by the Totin' Chip seriously if it's taken, and his right to carry and use knives and other edged tools, go with the card. If there's any real confirmation of this, would you be able to refer me to it?

Also, along the lines of hazing, wouldn't sending a new Scout off on a wild goose chase for a left-handed smoke-shifter also be considered a form of hazing?

Yes, we do not "tear corners" from Totin' Chips. If a Scout is mistreating or misusing a woods/edged tool, our responsibility is correction; not punishment. In fact, there's no provision anywhere in Scouting for "punishment." Correction is by way of instruction, and the EDGE method works very well in this situation. So, instead of even taking the card, when you, as guide and mentor, show the Scout the correct way and obtain his commitment to follow it, you're fulfilling the commitment to youth you made when you enrolled as a BSA volunteer.

Confirmation? How about this: How would you be feeling if, on stopping you, an officer of the law tore a corner from your driver's license? Or, you're a Scoutmaster and some mirrored sunglass lensed, Smokey Bear hat-wearing Commissioner-as-Council Cop tears a corner off your Scoutmaster registration card?

Yes, "left-handed monkey wrenches," "smoke-shifters," "bacon stretchers," and the like are now no-no's, for the very reason you state: They're forms of hazing. "Snipe hunts" for the troop's newbies are now also considered a part of the same unacceptable genre.

Goshen Scout Reservation



Another summer has come to pass at Goshen Scout Reservation...and despite Mother Nature's temper tantrum Week 1 (aka a derecho) and consistent temperatures in the 80s and 90s...2012 will go down as one of the best summers yet! Work now begins on creating a spillway for the dam as required by the Commonwealth of Virginia to operate the camp next summer. Construction will be completed by May 2013 and Lake Merriweather will be ready for Scouts Memorial Day weekend! Beat the rush... Ready to make your reservation TODAY for next year? Go to:

www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.aspx?orgkey=370&id=113893

Interested in being on the 2013 camp staff? Go to:

www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.aspx?orgkey=370&id=113898

STEM: NCAC Seeking Supernova Mentors



The introduction of the new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Nova and Supernova awards brings a fresh opportunity to volunteer! A Nova counselor can be any registered adult age 21 or older.

Supernova mentor is a new position requiring a separate registration and adult leader form. Mentors must be 21 or older, be a subject-matter expert in a STEM field, have current Youth Protection Training, complete the Supernova Awards Mentor Information application and be approved by the Council STEM Committee. This is a non-unit position that requires no fee.

Mail your completed mentor application, adult application and youth protection certificate to the NCAC STEM Committee at 9190 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814 or email to James.Hamlin@Scouting.org.

For more Information about STEM or to download the mentor application go to: www.BoyScouts-NCAC.org/stem

SCUBA Training Scholarships



The Professional Association of Dive Instructors (PADI) has a scholarship program that awards various levels of grants to individual Scouts/Venturers and Scout Troops/Venture Crews for PADI diver training courses. The scholarships applications must be submitted to BSA national Office no later than December 31, 2012. The forms are available on the NCAC website forms and document page.

New High Adventure Camp



Atchafalaya Swamp Base is Scouting's *newest* high adventure trek located in southern Louisiana. Spend a week next summer kayaking through the Nation's most mysterious and challenging environment.

- Paddle the 65 mile Swamp Trek trail
- Fly through the swamp on airboats
- Sleep on houseboats & our exclusive 24-acre Island Outpost
- Spotlight alligators in the black of night
- Set traps and cast lines for fish, crawfish, and crabs
- Complete your journey in exclusively designed tandem swamp kayaks

For more information contact:
 Evangeline Area Council, Boy Scouts of America
 2266 S. College Rd. Extension
 Lafayette, Louisiana 70508
 (337) 235-8551 ex. 111
www.eacbsa.org/wp/

Scout Day at Navy Football



Join the Naval Academy Athletic Association for "Scout Day 2012" at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, MD on Saturday, Nov. 17 at the Navy vs. Texas State home football game. Kickoff is tentatively set for 3:30pm. More than 10,000 Scouts and family members have attended in past years, making it one of the largest football events in recent history. Scouts can also take tours of the United States Naval Academy or camp for the weekend. For more information, go to www.NavySports.com and use the promo code "SCOUTDAY".

Historic Ships Overnight Adventures



Historic Ships in Baltimore's Overnight Adventures offers a unique opportunity to walk in the footsteps of sailors aboard historic Navy and Coast Guard vessels.

WHO: Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts (minimum age: 1st grade)

WHEN: 7 days a week, year-round

WHERE: USS Constellation, USS Torsk, or USCGC Taney

COST: \$50 per person, 20 person minimum, deposit required to save your program, balance due 30 days before event. Cost includes hands-on activities, dinner and breakfast, and a place to lay your head.

For more information visit www.historicships.org or email Sarah Rauscher at srauscher@historicships.org.

Calling All New BSA Lifeguards



If you or a member of your unit completed BSA Lifeguard, Swimming and Water Rescue, Paddle Craft Safety or BSA Lifeguard Counselor course at camp this summer, please send a note to Mike Mennehan (MMMenehan@cox.net) so we can ensure that the NCAC Aquatics Committee has documented your achievements. This is especially critical if you completed them at a camp outside NCAC.

Sky Lantern Dangers



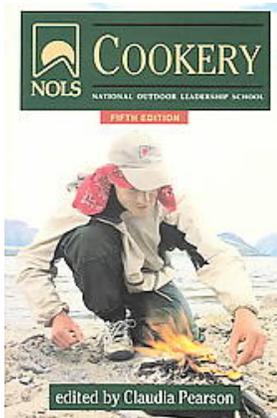
Without question, a night sky filled with lanterns can be an awesome sight. However, we have been asked to advise Scouts against launching sky lanterns at all. Some units have been requesting permission to do so, and have been denied permission to do so by local fire officials or other local authorities. Upon review, the release of a sky lantern also has been determined to conflict with fundamental Scouting safety principles that relate to fire management, in particular the Fireman's Chit certification and Unit Fireguard Chart, both of which require fires to be attended at all times.

Sky lanterns (also known as paper, floating, or Chinese lanterns) are basically a small, unmanned hot-air balloon. The lantern is a wire or bamboo frame with a paper shell. It has a candle or other fuel source in a holder at the bottom of the balloon. The flame creates the hot air that makes the lantern float, and it adds a glow to the lantern as it floats through the air. These can travel up to a mile or more depending upon the local winds and atmospheric conditions.

Sky lanterns are not allowed within many fire jurisdictions and have already been banned in some areas, especially if they have adopted certain portions of the International Fire Code (IFC) within their jurisdiction. The IFC, like Scouting, states that all "recreational fires" must be attended by a person at all times until they are completely extinguished. Since a sky lantern is allowed to float away as the air inside the lantern rises in temperature, the flame inside the sky lantern cannot be constantly attended by a person until it is extinguished. The sky lantern is free to float to wherever the air currents take it. If a sky lantern is caught in a tree or lands on a roof and the fire spreads to whatever it gets caught in, this could turn into a tragic event.

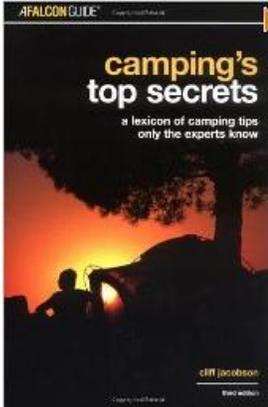
Unfortunately, whoever launches the sky lantern and their chartered organization can be held financially responsible for damages caused. For this reason, the use of sky lanterns should not be a part of any Scouting activity. If you have any questions about how fires should be handled in your area, we suggest Scouts and leaders contact their local fire authority when planning an event.

National Outdoor Leadership School Cookery



Each year 3000 students spend two weeks to three months in the back country on National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) courses. That's a lot of back country cooking! The folks at NOLS have developed a simple, varied and inexpensive diet that is based on staple foods that can be found at any grocery store. There's also a wealth of information on planning, packing and preparing meals for extended trips or just a weekend. One Scoutmaster's particular favorite recipe is Thai Gado-gado Spaghetti featuring a peanut sweet and sour sauce. Mixing peanut butter in spaghetti raises some eyebrows but he has never had any leftovers.

Camping's Top Secrets



Camping's Top Secrets goes beyond the scope of traditional camping books, revealing hundreds of field-tested tips to enhance your next outdoor adventure. With clear descriptions organized alphabetically for quick reference, this guide by veteran camping consultant Cliff Jacobson divulges the best-kept secrets of the experts.

Get insider tips on:

- forecasting the weather
- rigging a canoe or boat
- treating drinking water
- using tents and other types of shelters
- dealing with animal and insect encounters
- cooking and cookware
- treating common ailments
- using maps and GPS units
- camping with kids
- choosing camping clothes, boots, sleeping bags, and gear

and much more!

On-Line Resource of the Month



Stormdrane's Blog (<http://stormdrane.blogspot.com/>) is a site with posted photos of his hobby (knots) and where he shares some ideas on things he has learned to make by using decorative and useful knots. If you want to learn, there are informative links throughout the blog for books and online learning resources. If you have trouble figuring a knot out, have patience and keep trying. Click 'Older Posts' at the bottom of the last post on each page or search the 'Archive' for more.

THE BUCKETS



BY GREG CRAVENS



Training Opportunities

University of Scouting



The "University of Scouting" is a supplemental training opportunity for all adult Scout leaders. It is the only time during the year where you can find, all in one place, the widest variety of training opportunities in all program areas (Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venture Scouts, Varsity Scouts, District, and Council). Whether you are new to the program or a veteran of many years, the University provides interesting courses in Cubbing, Scouting, what we call "Adventuring" (a combination of Varsity, Venturing, and Sea Scout activities), as well as Electives opportunities.

When: Feb 23, 2013, Registration opens in January

Where: Hayfield Secondary School, Alexandria

For more information: www.doubleknot.com/university-of-scouting-uos/24914

Wood Badge



Wood Badge is designed to meet the advanced leadership needs of all Scouters, including Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Varsity Coaches, Venturing Advisors, committee chairs, den leaders and other unit, district and council leaders. The Wood Badge course incorporates more than 80 years of traditions while adding the management and leadership training necessary to become a successful leader in the 21st Century.

Please take a minute to read about Wood Badge and to add your name to the next course roster. NCAC's Wood Badge courses fill up quickly so register soon!

Spring 2013 Wood Badge (both sessions are required):

Session 1: Friday, 4/12/2013- Sunday, 4/14/2013 at Camp William B. Snyder, Haymarket, VA

Session 2: Friday, 5/17/2013 - Monday 5/19/2013 at Camp High Road, Middleburg, VA

For more information about Wood Badge go to:

www.BoyScouts-NCAC.org/wood-badge/16143

Cub Leader Pow Wow



What is Cub Leader Pow Wow?

Cub Leader Pow Wow is a supplemental, action-packed all day training event for adult Cub Scout Leaders. You will spend the day learning new ideas and concepts with hands-on experiences that will enhance your ability to deliver and support a fun-filled, exciting program to Cub Scout boys.

When is Pow Wow?

Pow Wow is Saturday, November 17, 2012. Doors open at 7:30 am. Walk-in registration and pre-registered pack pick-up starts at 8:00 am. Please, no early arrivals.

Opening Ceremony begins at 8:40 am. The first training session starts promptly at 9:00 am. Some courses are 50 minutes long, some are 90 minutes long, some are 2 hours long and some are all morning or afternoon. BALOO is an all day course. We'll stop along the trail for lunch, which is provided at noon.

Where is Pow Wow?

We're gathering at Annandale High School, 4700 Medford Drive, Annandale, Virginia.

Who should attend Cub Leader Pow Wow?

Everyone! All registered adult Cub Scout Leaders, potential leaders, and interested parents.

Training sessions offer relevant topics for every Cub Scout position to help you make your Cub Scout program more fun for the boys ... and you too!

What do I need to do to register online for Cub Leader Pow Wow?

Download and carefully review the course description and course schedule, then make your course selections. Have a major credit card handy when you register. All courses have limited enrollment and many fill quickly. Courses that reach maximum enrollment will not be available to select for registration. So register when it becomes available.

How Much Does Pow Wow Cost?

If you pre-register using our online registration system by November 13, 2012, the cost is \$35.00. After midnight on November 13, 2012, we stop electronic registration and you will have to register as a 'walk-in' on the day of the event. The cost for walk-in registration on the day of the event is \$45.00.

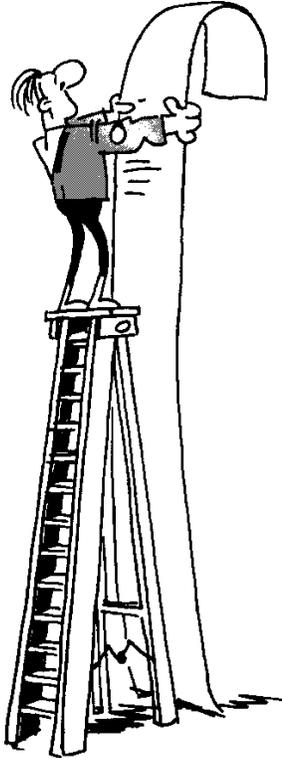
All courses have limited enrollment and many fill very quickly. Courses that reach maximum enrollment will not be available to be selected when you electronically pre-register or at walk-in registration. So register as soon as it is posted on this page! Remember online registration closes on November 13, 2012.

What's Included for the Registration Fee?

Registration fee includes a day of training (as many as six courses), a patch, a Pow Wow CD, lunch, and as much Scout fellowship and sprit, and Cub Scout networking as you can take-in during the day!

For additional information: Go to www.BoyScouts-NCAC.org/PowWow

District Calendar



November 2012

- 2-4 NCAC Venturing Hike-o-ree
- 3 **Scouting for Food Bag Distribution**
- 5-6 Student Holiday
- 8 Commissioner RT
- 10 **Scouting for Food Bag Pickup**
- 14 Roundtable
- 14 Venturing Forum
- 15 District Committee
- 17 PowWow
- 21-23 Thanksgiving Break

December 2012

- 12 Roundtable
- 12 Venturing Forum
- 19 Annual District Business Meeting
- 24 Winter Break Starts

January 2013

- 1 Winter Break Ends
- 9 Roundtable
- 9 Venturing Forum
- 10 Commissioner RT
- 18 Moveable School Holiday
- 19 **Training – Boy Scout Leader Specific**
- 21 MLK Jr. Day
- 23 District Committee
- 25-27 **Freeze-o-ree**

February 2013

- 10 Scout Sunday
- 13 Roundtable
- 13 Venturing Forum
- 14 Commissioner RT
- 16 Scout Sabbath
- 18 President's Day
- 23 Univ. of Scouting
- 27 District Committee

March 2013

- 7 **AOL Recognition Ceremony**
- 9 **Distict Pinewood Derby**
- 13 Roundtable
- 13 Venturing Forum
- 14 Commissioner RT
- 25-29 Spring Break
- 27 District Committee

April 2013

- 1 Moveable School Holiday
- 6 **Training – Den Chief**
- 10 Roundtable
- 10 Venturing Forum
- 11 Commissioner RT
- 12-14 **Spring Camporee**
- 13 **Training – Boy Scout Leader Specific (at camporee)**
- 24 District Committee
- 26-28 OA Ordeal

May 2013

- 4 **Cubmobile Derby**
- 4 **Training – Boy Scout Leader Specific**
- 8 **Program Launch**
- 9 Commissioner RT
- 12 Mother's Day
- 18-19 **Training – IOLS/OLSWL**
- 22 District Committee
- 27 Memorial Day

June 2013

- 1 **Soda Bottle Rocket Derby**
- 6 Last Day of School
- 12 Roundtable
- 12 Venturing Forum
- 13 Commissioner RT
- 17-21 **Day Camp**
- 26 District Committee

July 2013

- 4 Independence Day
- 15-24 National Jamboree

August 2013

- 8 Commissioner RT
- 14 Roundtable
- 14 Venturing Forum
- 28 District Committee

September 2013

- 2 Labor Day
- 11 Roundtable
- 11 Venturing Forum
- 12 Commissioner RT
- 21-22 **Webelos-o-ree**
- 25 District Committee

October 2013

- 7 Columbus Day
- 9 Roundtable
- 9 Venturing Forum
- 10 Commissioner RT
- 19-20 JOTA/JOTI
- 23 District Committee