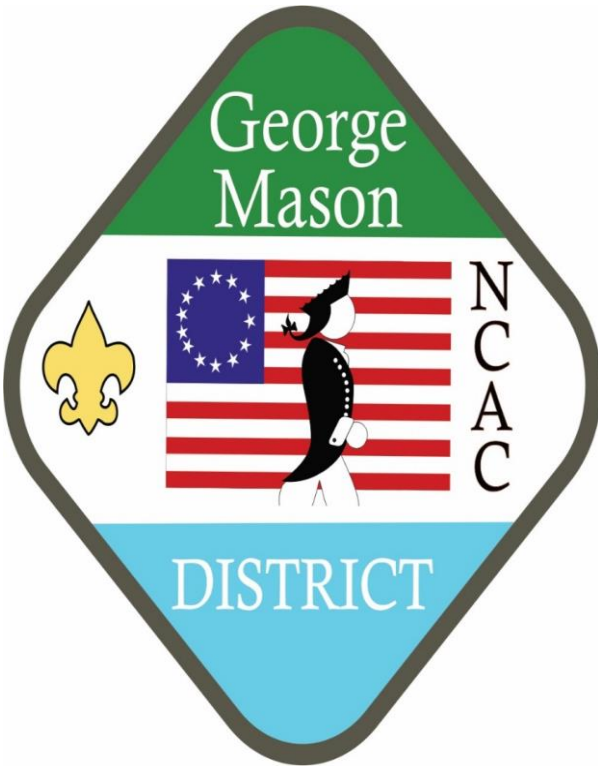




GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS
MAY/JUNE 2024



Welcome to this edition of the George Mason District Press. We e-mail this out bi-monthly to the BSA registered leaders in George Mason District; unit leaders and merit badge counselors – those who have their current YPT.

George Mason District Leadership and its youth appreciate all of the hard work and commitment you provide to the youth of our community.

Thank you.

Please plan to attend Roundtable Thurs. May 9, 2024
at Thoreau Middle School, Vienna Va.

USEFUL LINKS:

NCAC Council Web site	National BSA
GMD Web Site	GMD Upcoming Events
GMD Roundtable (PW: GMDRT)	GMD Training
National Order of the Arrow	wipit470.org
Pay OA Dues	



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Calendar of Events – Links included if available

May 2024:

05/03-05/2024 – GM District Spring Camporee, Northern Virginia 4-H Center, Front Royal
Greeks Versus Romans Theme.

05/04/2024 – [19th NCAC Scout Orienteering Meet](#), PWD, Triangle, Va

05/09/2024 – GM Roundtable, 7:30 PM, Thoreau MS, Vienna, Va

05/09/2024 – GM OA Chapter meeting, 7:30 PM, Thoreau MS, Vienna, Va

[05/10–12/2024 – Family Camping, Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA](#)

[05/24–27/2024 – Family Camping, Goshen Scout Reservation, Goshen, VA](#)

05/27/2024 - [Memorial Day Flags In](#), (10am) National Memorial Park, Falls Church, VA

05/31/2024 - 2023-2024 OA Unit Election Season CLOSES –
NO MORE OA UNIT ELECTIONS for 2023-2024 after May 31, 2024.

June 2024:

06/13/2024 – Program Launch/Silent Auction (7pm), Thoreau MS, Vienna VA5/03-05/2024

August 2024:

[08/30/24 – 09/02/24 – Family Camping, Goshen Scout Reservation, Goshen, VA](#)



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Calendar of Events(cont.) – Links included if available

September 2024:

09/13-15/2024 & 10/05-06/2024 Fall Wood Badge Course Camp Snyder,

<https://scoutingevent.com/082-81101%20>

09/21/2024 – 12:30 – 4:30 GM [Life to Eagle seminar](#) (in person), Heller Hall, St. James Catholic Church, Falls Church, VA

October 2024:

10/11-14/2024 – National Capital Area Council and Mountaineer Area Council will host **Climboree 2024** at [Camp Mountaineer](#) near [Morgantown, WV](#)

10/18/2024 GMD Fall Camporee, Camp Rock Enon, Gore, VA

July 2026:

July 2026 – [National Jamboree](#), Summit Bechtel Reserve, WV



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Chair's Chat

This is my first Chair's Chat after assuming the position of District Chair in late March. Thank you for your support as I am learning this new role. As John Kilduff moves out of the Chair position and assumes the position of District Finance Chair, I realize that I have big shoes to fill as John so ably served in this role for three years. Many thanks to John for his service!

At the District Court of Honor several weeks ago, I was thrilled to see how many adult volunteers were recognized for the time and energy they pour into scouting. We are privileged to have so many outstanding leaders, as evidenced by the high quality of the scouting program at the unit and district levels. Making it a regular habit to thank volunteers is so important to affirm the work that they do.



Spring has arrived and that means getting out and enjoying the outdoors! We are looking forward to the upcoming Greeks vs. Romans-themed District Camporee on May 3-5 at the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational and Conference Center in Front Royal. I hope to see you out there as this will be an exciting and educational event, giving scouts an opportunity for some hands-on history lessons in addition to fulfilling rank requirements and fostering teamwork and friendly competition.

On May 27, we will take time to honor our nation's veterans during Flags In at National Memorial Park in West Falls Church. Join us as we mark Veterans graves with flags for Memorial Day from 10 am to 1 pm, with pizza at noontime.

Summer is coming up quickly so if your unit hasn't already committed to summer activities, please consider Cub Scout Day Camp at Camp Snyder on June 24-28 and July 8-12, or resident weekends for Cub Scouts starting June 20. Camp Snyder also has resident and day-camp Specialty Summer Camps for older Scouts on July 14-July 20 and July 21-27. Goshen still has openings for summer camp also!

Looking further ahead to the fall, we are already planning the next District Camporee for October 18-20, 2024; more to come on this soon, so please keep this in mind as you start planning your unit's fall activities.

Wishing you a wonderful spring, and I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming District event.

Yours in Scouting,

Traci Yates - George Mason District Chair

Traci.yates@cox.net



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**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL**

2024 Aquatics Programs

<https://ncacbsa.org/Aquatics-Committee>



Safe Swim Defense (SSD) and Safety Afloat (SA)



What: BSA Safe Swim Defense (26 min) and Safety Afloat (30 min) training is required for any BSA unit conducting swimming or boating activities.
Who: Adult leaders supervising a swimming/boating activity must have completed Safe Swim Defense/Safety Afloat within the previous two years.
Where: SSD and SA training is available online at <https://my.scouting.org>. Any in-person training must be presented by a qualified instructor.
Cost: Free!

Pre-Camp Swim Classification Tests



What: This is an opportunity for your unit to have your annual BSA Swim Classification Check done under supervision of NCAC-approved aquatics personnel.
Who: Any NCAC unit (Pack, Troop, and Crew)
Where: Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA
When: **June 1 & June 2** – One-hour blocks starting at 9am. Last session is 4pm. Register by May 15th.
Cost: \$3 per participant.

Paddle Craft Safety Training

What: This the hands-on training that is recommended in Safety Afloat guidelines for anyone conducting Scout boating activities. Two versions of the course are offered: The Basic course covers flat water introductory boating skills and basic trip planning. The river course includes skills and knowledge development that are required for conducting trips on moving water. The Basic course is a prerequisite for the moving water course.
Who: Adult leaders
When:

- Session 1*: [May 18 \(Still Water\), May 19 \(Moving Water\)](#)
- Session 2**: [June 1 \(Still Water\), June 2 \(Moving Water\)](#)
- Session 3**: [Aug 24 \(Still Water\), Aug 25 \(Moving Water\)](#)
- Session 4**: [Sep 7 \(Still Water\), Sep 8 \(Moving Water\)](#)

Where: * Still Water–Zoom/Silver Lake; Moving Water–Keedysville, MD
 ** Still Water–Camp Snyder; Moving Water–Riley’s Lock
Cost: \$30/class day

Aquatics Awards

Find the requirements at:
<https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/aquatics/>

These awards are available for any Scouts BSA-aged youth or adult. To work on any of these awards outside of Summer Camp, contact:

Charles Hochstein (charles.hochstein@usps.gov)



Boardsailing BSA



Kayaking BSA



BSA Lifeguard



Mile Swim BSA



Scuba BSA



Snorkeling BSA



BSA Stand Up Paddleboarding



Whitewater Rafting Award

ScubaJam Virginia

What: Social Gathering Among Divers
Who: Scouts BSA (11-17 years), Venture (14-21 years)
Where: Lake Phoenix Scuba Park, Rawlings, VA
When: Labor Day Weekend (Aug 30-Sept 2)
Cost: Check Web Site (Scholarships Available)
Note: This is a private organization event and not sponsored by BSA. Registration and waivers must be in by August 15th.
<https://www.facebook.com/StubajamVirginia>

Aquatics MB Completion Day

What: Complete Partial MBs - Lifesaving & Swimming
Who: Scouts BSA (11-17 years), Venture (14-21 years)
Where: TBD
When: TBD – Likely the first weekend in Oct
Cost: \$10

Lifeguard Training

What: BSA Lifeguard Training is professional level training that meets the requirements of government agencies for professional lifeguards at regulated swimming activities. Lifeguard certification qualifies one for many summer opportunities. This class is being conducted by Campaign Pay It Forward (<https://campaignpayitforward.com/booking>, select BSA Lifeguarding from the pull-down menu)
Who: The program is open to all registered adults and older youth (minimum age 15). Strong swimming skills are required. The course includes online pre-work that must be completed before the first session.
Where: Varies
When: Check Schedule
Cost: Check Schedule



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District Life to Eagle Seminar



- **Saturday, 28 September 2024**
- **12:30 p.m. gathering**
- **1:00 to 4:30 p.m.**
- **In Person – Heller Hall at St. James Catholic Church in Falls Church**
- **Register at: <https://scoutingevent.com/082-84680>**

Who should attend:

- Life Scouts or advanced Star Scouts who want to pursue the Eagle Rank
- Eagle advisors, coaches or unit leaders that haven't attended a seminar in two years
- Parents of Scouts working on Eagle or other adults interested in Scouting

Registration is live now and must be registered by 26 September 2024.

Any questions contact Matt Burns at 703-938-9550.



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Flags In – Memorial Day 2024

George Mason District Scouts Honoring our Veterans

Celebrate Memorial Day by joining the George Mason District Crews, Troops, and Packs for “Flags-in” – placing American Flags on the graves of veterans.



Class-A Uniforms

The scout family’s pick-up flags at the Chapel: The National Memorial Park, 7482 Lee Highway, Falls Church, VA 22042. Families should then move into the NMP and place flags.

Schedule for May 27, 2024 (Monday)

- 10:00 am – Event Starts – get flags and instructions
- 11:00 am and 12:00 pm – TAPS blown (buglers needed)
- 12:15 pm – Pizza will be available about 12:00pm. Water and Gatorade will be provided.
- 1:00 pm – Event ends

Scout service hours (up to 3 hours) will be available. Each participating Scout earns a unique patch and rocker.

For more information, please contact: Russell Pittman at (571) 354-7378 or ruspittman@gmail.com

Slideshow: [How to Identify Veteran’s Graves](#)

Pamphlet: [How to Identify Veteran’s Graves](#)



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Summit

[Summit Info](#)

[Registration info](#)

[Shop Online](#)

2025 SUMMER SEASON REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 18 - 9AM EST

Get ready for an AWESOME summer adventure in 2025!

Now is the perfect time to start planning your 2025 trip to the Summit to experience some of the best and most unique High Adventure in Scouting. We're opening up registration on January 18, 2024 and we want you to be prepared to start your adventure with us.



CHECK OUT 2025 REGISTRATION INFO



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October 11-14, 2024

CLIMBOREE 2024

Join us in October 2024 for two full days of climbing, high ropes challenges, shooting sports, and Dutch oven cooking!



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Join us in October 2024 for two full days of climbing, high ropes challenges, shooting sports, and Dutch oven cooking!

The National Capital Area Council and Mountaineer Area Council will host **Climboree 2024** at [Camp Mountaineer](#) near [Morgantown, WV](#) on the long holiday weekend from **October 11 to October 14, 2024**.
SAVE THE DATES!

- Climbing and rappelling on natural rock
- 60-foot climbing tower
- Bouldering on gritstone walls
- Guided challenge course sessions
- Big Zip quarter-mile zipline
- Rifle, shotgun, and archery ranges
- All-day, hands-on Dutch oven cooking class

\$30 per participant for a weekend of tent camping and adventure. We will not provide meals. Save our [flyer](#) and watch for our [registration](#) announcement in early April. Email NCAC.Climboree@gmail.com to join our contact list.

We hope to see you there!



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Training

Local NCAC Leadership Training: [GMD Training](#)

Cub Scout:

- **Cub Scout Leader Specific (C40/C42)**
 - [Available on-line \(125 min\)](#)
 - [05/04/24 – Herndon, VA](#)
- **Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO;C32)**
 - [05/04/24 - 05/05/24 - Gaithersburg, MD](#)
 - [05/10/24 - 05/11/24 - Fredericksburg, VA](#)

Scout:

- **Scoutmaster Position Specific Training(S24)**
 - [Available on-line \(192 min\)](#)
 - [05/04/24 – Herndon, VA](#)
- **Back Country Outdoor Leadership Skills (BCOLS)**
 - [10/05/24 & 11/02/24-11/03/24](#)
- **Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS; S11)**
 - [05/04/24 - 05/05/24 - Gaithersburg, VA](#)
 - [05/10/24 - 05/11/24 - Fredericksburg, VA](#)

Commissioners

- [Available on-line \(305 min\)](#)

Miscellaneous:

First Aid/CPR/AED

- [Campaign Pay It Forward](#) (30% discount – use code “Scouts”)
- [American Red Cross](#) – Blended Courses (2.5 hr online, 1.75 hr classroom)
- [Stop the Bleed](#)– *How to stop bleeding in a severely injured person*
- [Until Help Arrives](#)
- *(See Wilderness First Aid)*

Mental Health First Aid – Understand mental illnesses, seek timely intervention, and save lives

- [Various](#)



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National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT; S78)

- **06/16/24 – 06/21/24 – Session 24-2 – Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA (waitlist only)**
- **06/23/24 – 06/28/24 – Session 24-3 – Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA (waitlist only)**
- **07/28/24 – 08/02/24 – Session 24-4 – Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA (waitlist only)**
- **07/28/24 – 08/02/24 – Session 24-5 – Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA (space available)**

Outdoor Ethics/Leave No Trace (D78)

- **Outdoor Ethics Newsletter**
- Hybrid Leave No Trace Level 1 (formerly Trainer) courses in Germantown, MD:
 - Apr 8 & 13 (must attend both sessions) <https://scoutingevent.com/082-79191>
 - Apr 8 at 7-8pm online • Apr 13 at 9am-7pm in-person
- In Germantown, MD:
 - Sep 30 & Oct 5 (must attend both sessions) <https://scoutingevent.com/082-79192>
 - Sept 30 at 7-8pm online • Oct 5 at 9am-7pm in-person
- In-person in Brandywine, MD
 - Oct 19
 - OEO 12:30-2 <https://scoutingevent.com/082-79186>
 - OEG 2:30-4:30 <https://scoutingevent.com/082-79188>
 - Course Descriptions:
 - **Outdoor Ethics Orientation OEO course:** The goal of this 1.5 to 2-hour course is to introduce the concept of Outdoor Ethics in a fun & engaging way to a group with little experience in outdoor ethics. It should help youth & adults at all program levels understand the general principles behind Scouting's outdoor ethics program.
 - **Outdoor Ethics Guide OEG course:** This 2-hour course taught by NCAC helps orient Outdoor Ethics Guides to this position of leadership in their unit by reviewing the responsibilities of the Outdoor Ethics Guide position, providing ideas on how to carry out this role, practicing some activities & games, & sharing resources.
 - **Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor (formerly Trainer) course:** This 16-hour course trains adults and youth ages 14 & older to serve as Leave No Trace Trainers. It is recommended training for the Outdoor Ethics Guide troop leadership position and also highly recommended for camp staff, members of the council and district outdoor program, and members of training teams.

Scouterhorn Operations Training

- **05/11/24 – Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA**



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Trainer's Edge (H96)

- **09/10/24**
- **12/07/24**

Wilderness First Aid/CPR/AED (N02)

- **05/11/24 – 05/12/24 – Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA**
- www.campaignpayitforward.com, (833) 273-6263, info@campaignpayitforward.com
- www.wildsafe.org, (855) 505-1700 or (703) 444-9468 – Clif Castleman – clifton@wildsafe.org
- www.onthetrailfirstaid.com, (410) 456-6861 – Saleena DeVore – saleena@onthetrailfirstaid.com
- www.ETRsafety.com, (703) 771-6092, info@ETRsafety.com
- www.solowfa.com, (434) 326-4697, courses@solowfa.com
- <https://www.rei.com/events/a/outdoor-skills-wilderness-medicine>
- www.wfa.net, (703) 836-8905, Chris Tate – chris@wfa.net
- **Troop 1430** – South Riding VA (ECSI), Dallas Cecil – dkcecil@earthlink.net – (571) 969-1592
- **Venturing Crew 80** – Alexandria VA (ARC), Michael Martin (Associate Advisor) – CPRAEDFAWRFA@comcast.net

Wood Badge (A90)

- **10/14/24 – 10/15/24 & 10/05/24 – 10/06/24**



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Philmont Training Center — Scouting U — Training Week

John & Julia Lesko, Co-Facilitators

Acquire the Facilitator's Advantage

July 21- 24, 2024

Note: Enroll in this half-week conference and stay for another to complement your learning and complete your week.



Come join us for an intense, interactive learning experience like no other. This conference is ideally suited for Scouters who train other Scouts & Scouters for NYLT or Wood Badge staffs, at your Council's University of Scouting, as well as in other small group settings.

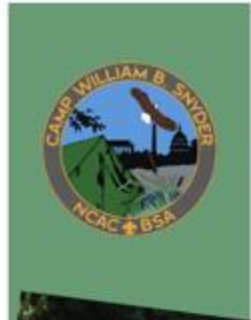
Meet with your peers from other Council and District Training Teams. Learn how to engage everyone, communicate via multiple learning styles, ask better questions, and manage difficult conversations. This will be done via fun-filled game play. Those who enroll will leave with a gift, multiple decks of game cards to take home and pass along. Let's have some fun while we learn this summer in a Scouting Paradise.



<https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc/ptc-conferences/>



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Save the Day!
Be a Superhero!
at Camp Snyder Summer 2024



**Cub Scout Camp
Day Camp**

6/24 - 6/28
7/8 - 7/12

Resident Weekends

6/20 - 6/23
6/27 - 6/30
7/11 - 7/14

Family 4th of July

7/5 - 7/7

Adventures! Advancement! Fun!

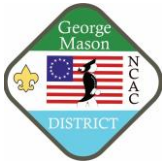
Programs are open to Cub Scouts
- rising Tigers to rising Arrow of Light.
Family 4th of July is open to all ages!

www.gotosnyder.org

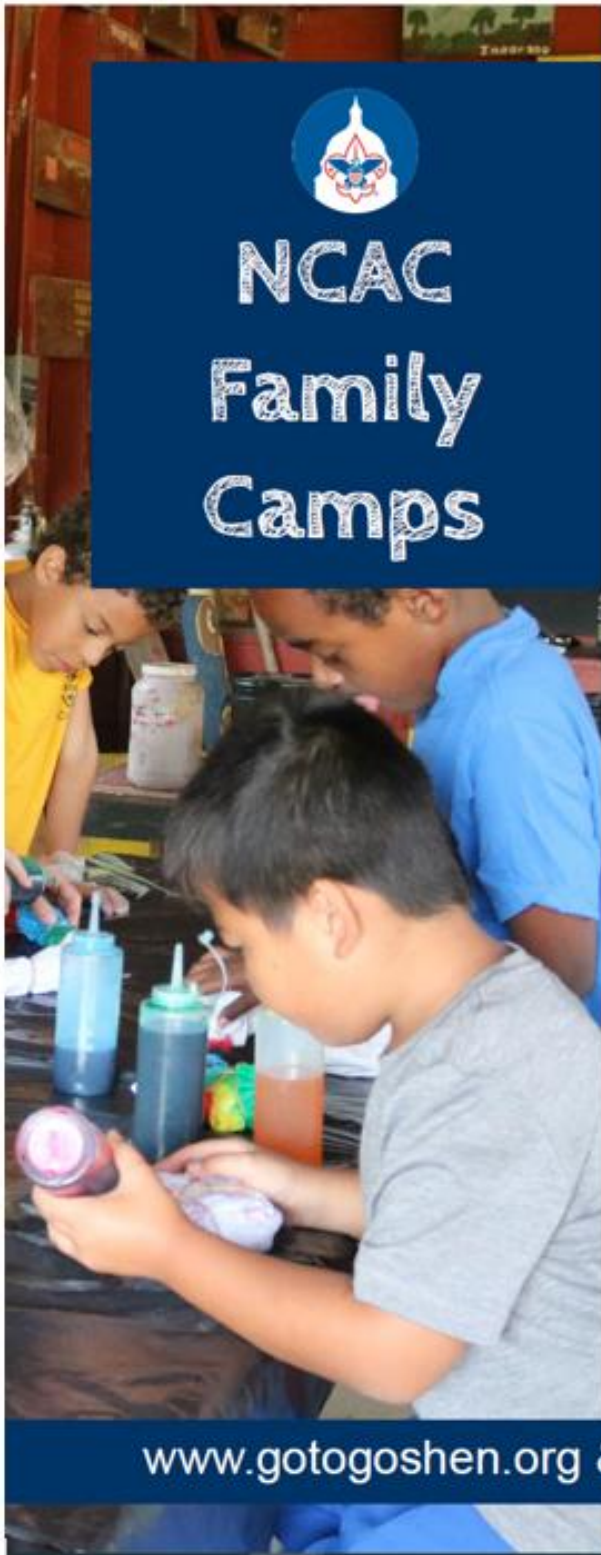
Looking for programs for older campers?

Scout Specialty Weeks
for Scouts BSA
www.gotosnyder.org

Goshen Scout Reservation
for Scouts BSA, Venturers, & Webelos
www.gotogoshen.org



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2023

 **FALL EXPOS
FAMILY CAMP**
at Camp Snyder
October 20-22, 2023
November 17-19, 2023

Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA welcome!
Take part in climbing, target sports,
STEM, crafts, and the popular
Woodshop.

2024

 **GOSHEN
FAMILY CAMP**
at Goshen Scout Reservation
Memorial Day: May 26-29, 2023
Labor Day: September 1-4, 2023

Enjoy the beauty of Goshen and make
the most of your weekend with fun for
all ages!

 **SPRING
FAMILY CAMP**
at Camp Snyder

April 19-21, 2024
May 10-12, 2024

Get into the outdoors and enjoy spring
with a variety of activities!

www.gotogoshen.org & www.gotosnyder.org



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Thanks to all our **amazing staff, participants, parents and supporters** who made our **five 2023 courses a success!!**

2024 NYLT

Planning is already underway for **five more courses** next year at Camp William B. Snyder. Information and Registration will be available soon as we create space for more participants and staff to have extraordinary NYLT experiences!

Schedule-

24-2 June 16-21, 2024

24-3 June 23-28, 2024

24-4 July 28-Aug 2, 2024

24-5 July 28-Aug 2, 2024

Registration will open in the Fall and will be announced through NCAC distro and on Facebook.

* **Staffing Opportunities**

Youth who have completed NYLT and will be at least 14 years old can apply for staff. This is an amazing opportunity to join a motivated team of youth trainers.

[Apply for Staff](#)



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Wood Badge 2024

Fall Course

September 13-15 & October 5-6, 2024

Course Director: MJ Uribe Email: mjuribebsa@gmail.com

The Course will be \$300.

Wood Badge is the Boy Scouts of America's ultimate leadership training designed to meet the advanced leadership needs of Scouters in all aspects of the BSA, whether unit, district, or council level – from assistant den leaders to Scoutmasters, from Cubmasters to Venturing Advisors, from committee members to commissioners. It is a fun, energetic and inspiring course guaranteed to infuse your unit with fun and meaning – all designed to fulfill the mission of the BSA, and ensure our youth is getting everything they are promised from the program.

Reflecting the best of nearly a century of Scouting experience, Wood Badge draws upon the most current leadership models used by corporate America, academic circles and successful organizations throughout the country. Participants can expect to develop skills in many areas, including leadership theory, team building, problem-solving, communication, project planning and more. These skills can be taken back to packs, troops, crews and ships to help leaders guide youth in dynamic Scouting programs. Scouters will find these skills invaluable in their business and personal lives as well.

Wood Badge consists of two parts:

The first five full days is the initial group training, usually held over two weekends – the first weekend Friday through Sunday, and the second Saturday and Sunday (**Both weekends must be attended**).

The second part requires participants to apply the skills they learned by completing a 5-part plan (called a "ticket") over the following 18 months, leading towards the individual participant's vision of a better Scouting future.

Requirements for attending Wood Badge:

1. Be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America and age 18 or older.
2. Have completed the basic position-specific training courses for their Scouting role.
3. Be capable of functioning safely in an outdoor environment. All participants are required to complete the Annual Health and Medical Record. Parts A, B, and C are required which includes a physical. Part C is required for everyone, including people who are not present for more than 72 hours.

A minimum (non-refundable) deposit is due with registration, and then full payment is due 45 days before the start of the course. Each Wood Badge course is limited to 48 participants. Per national guidelines, any course not having 30 fully paid participants 30 days prior to the start of the course is subject to cancellation.

Scholarship requests can be submitted at: <https://247scouting.com/forms/082-FinancialSupport>

QUESTIONS?

For information about specific courses, contact the Course Director listed above.



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Merit Badge Program



The Scouting BSA is a movement dedicated to supplementing and enlarging the education of youth. As a vital part of the BSA's advancement plan, the merit badge program is one of Scouting's basic character-building tools and plays a key role in the fulfillment of this educational commitment. There are over 100 different merit badges in the program. Upcoming events will be listed below:

- [Online Merit Badge Courses](#) - Watch video, fill out workbook, contact Counselor
- [Parktakes](#) (select "Scouts" from the Category of Activity)
- [MeritBadge.Info](#) - Various MB Days throughout the country
- [Fly Fishing Merit Badge Program](#), Northern Virginia
- [Merit Badges Scouts can complete at Home](#)

Current Merit Badge Counselors and Guidelines:

The current roster of merit badge counselors is provided periodically to the Scoutmaster of each troop. If a scout needs information about a specific merit badge, the scout can contact their troop leadership or the George Mason Merit Badge Dean (**note emails should include two adults - no one-on-one contact for electronic media**).

To become a Merit Badge Counselor:

You can apply online [here](#) (note, please ensure you have a current YPT before filling out application). When you are done with the application, send the MB Dean your list of MBs using the [Merit Badge Counselor Information Sheet](#).

Any questions or concerns please contact the District's Merit Badge Dean:

Margee Egan at margee.egan@gmail.com



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George Mason Chapter Order of the Arrow (OA)

The George Mason Chapter of the O/A meets in person on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Thoreau Middle School from 7:30-8:30. (Same time/location as GM Roundtable.)

11/01/2023 – 05/31/2024 – Unit election season for Order of the Arrow

Lodge Website: Wipit470.org

Ordeal registration page is here: <https://wipit470.org/ordeal.html>

Reporting 2024 Service Hours

NCAC Wipit 470 has provided a self-reporting online solution for any Wipit OA member, youth and adult, for service hours one performs. You can report hours as many times during the year as one wishes. These hours help support the Wipit Golden Tooth Service Award.

OA Service Hour Reporting - Online form for reporting all O/A service hours performed at the Troop/Crew/Ship level (all service hours worked for the Lodge or at Ordeals are recorded by event staff). This will help with tracking hours for Golden Tooth and other related awards. Units can choose to use the [spreadsheet](#) as an alternate way of submitting their data.

[Pay OA Dues](#)



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Amangamek-Wipit Lodge – 2024 Annual Dues

To attend any OA event or wear your sash and lodge flap, you must be a current dues-paying member of our lodge! For 2024, annual dues will be \$14 until March 31, 2024 when they increase to \$16 on April 1, 2024 (no fooling!). Payment may be made by credit card or e-check.

You will have an opportunity to make a contribution to help support our lodge activities and operations. Become a Lodge Contributor by making a \$100 contribution and receive our special Lodge Contributor patch and the satisfaction of knowing that you've dramatically helped further our mission of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service.

[Pay OA Dues](#)

If you are transferring from another lodge, please visit the Membership Dues and Transfers page on the lodge website:

<https://scoutingevent.com/082-MembershipTransfer>

and complete the [Membership Transfer Form](#) to pay your dues.