



The Patriot Press



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Patriot District

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From the District Chairman

My lead message, as it was in January, is to strongly encourage units to plan on adult Scouters attending **The University of Scouting**. On Saturday, February 27th, NCAC will hold the University of Scouting via Zoom. Adult Scouters will have an opportunity to choose from 150 courses. Courses focus on useful skills such as “How to Conduct a Board of Review” or an “Introduction to Basecamp.” Adult students can earn a Bachelor’s degree, a Master’s degree, or a PhD in Scouting. Many participants just take courses for fun or enrichment. I highly recommend attending this event to learn skills that you can apply as an adult leader. Plus, it is fun. Registration is now open. As adults, let’s all improve our Scouting skills by attending **The University of Scouting** this year.

Patriot District will conduct a District-wide food drive to support ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others) on Saturday, March 20; please note the flyer on page 17 of this issue of the Patriot Press. ECHO is now providing food and other services to 1,500 local families. They have been able to meet the food needs of the families in our area due to the support they get from churches, Scouts from the Old Dominion and Patriot Districts, and other civic organizations. Unfortunately, economic problems will continue for many families for most of 2021 and we need to continue to help. Specific instructions for the food drive will be sent out later after they have been solidified. Units that plan to participate are requested to notify Pat Ring at pring978@gmail.com or by cell phone at (703) 674-6178. Patriot District wants to keep track of all units that contribute to food drives.

In 2020, Patriot District conducted two District-wide food drives and several units conducted separate food drives or supported the Fairfax county “Stuff the Bus” campaigns. In total, Patriot District units collected over eight tons of food and donated it to various food banks to include ECHO. Units interested in conducting their own food drive and supporting ECHO are urged to contact Steve Richardson, who is the ECHO Major Food Drive Coordinator. He is also a Scouter with the Old Dominion District. Steve can be contacted at ristph@aol.com or by cell phone at (571) 422-2198. He will coordinate with any unit on a food drive for ECHO.

As we strive to maintain an effective Scouting program in a difficult time, strong Covid-19 restrictions remain in place. In doing so, we must be in compliance with all NCAC, State of Virginia, and local requirements. However, with the now ongoing distribution of vaccines and the partial resumption of in-school learning, we look forward to a less restrictive environment in the months ahead. The District staff is following all changes in requirements and will be evaluating how we can most effectively and safely conduct District-wide events such as the Pinewood Derby and Cub Scout Day Camp.

Bill Dexter
Patriot District Committee Chair





From the District Commissioner

All good things must come to an end, and my time as your District Commissioner will end on April 1st when I pass the baton to Ken Gaul, who is currently one of our Assistant District Commissioners. It's been a distinct privilege to have the Council's faith in me to serve our District as its Commissioner. But more important are the rewards that come from working with such dedicated volunteers who give so unselfishly of their time to afford our youth the opportunities and experiences Scouting offers as they grow into young adults. My wife and I plan to leave the area this summer for about a year as we work on our bucket list of sailing the Great Loop (you can google it), which is circumnavigating the Eastern third of the country by boat along our navigable waterways.

It's been two years since we stood up our girl troops. Everyone knows that the BSA gave the girls two years to attain Eagle if the motivation and focus were there; that is what it would take to complete the requirements in that time frame. We have five girls who had it and will be a part of the inaugural class of girl Eagle Scouts. They are Olivia Preston (Troop 1965G), Emma Bazemore (Troop 1533G), Jessica Hoskin (Troop 1965G), and just squeaking under the wire with only a few days left on the limit are Jennifer Hoskin (Troop 1965G) and Amelia Grannis (Troop 1526). Congratulations to these girls...it wasn't an easy task.

On the topic of recognizing individuals, I'd like to recognize three outstanding volunteers who will be awarded the Silver Beaver this year. This is a National award given at the Council level in recognition of their work in the Scouting program, service to youth outside of Scouting, and service to their community. Our awardees this year are Patrick Ring (currently serving on the District Committee), Justin Day (currently serving as the District Training Chair and COR for several units), and Rich Harrington (currently serving as Crew 2188 Advisor and Council VP for Marketing and Communication, as well as Patriot District's Vice Chair for Communications). Congratulations to our deserving Scouters.

I don't know how many have noticed the little blue circle in the bottom right-hand corner when signing into my.scouting.org. Next time you go to the website, click on it and have a chat with Betty. It's a quick way to change your password, check your YPT status and training, and just get some help. On the topic of my.scouting.org, once your unit has posted its new charter, please compare the member manager list of membership with what was on your recharter. There are occasional errors and it's better to catch them now and not next recharter season.

I hope Fairfax County's move to bring some teachers and students back to the classroom foretells of a relaxation of the state's restriction of only allowing gatherings of 10 people. Obviously, these restrictions make it difficult to do much with our Scouts except virtually, which has to be wearing thin with both Scouts and adults alike. Your efforts to keep Scouting fun and interesting through virtual means hasn't been easy, but it is greatly appreciated. Stay Safe!!

David Astle
District Commissioner



From Our District Executive

Along the Scouting trail, youth join and youth drop out as individual interests wax and wane. The recurrent problem for Packs and Troops is maximizing retention and minimizing attrition so that Scouts can benefit more from the program. One of the greatest losses occurs around February for those Scouts in 5th grade. They've reached the end of Cub Scouts, parents have grown weary of Pack meetings, and the Blue and Gold Banquet feels like a graduation, a culmination of years of hard work rather than a transition to a new and exciting BSA program. Many Patriot District Packs do an excellent job of emphasizing that the reason for Cub Scouts is to have fun while preparing to become a Scout BSA. Advancing to Webelos Scout rank is not to be thought of as an end, but rather as a steppingstone to greater adventure. How about a BSA 2021 Resolution: No Webelos Left Behind.

Congratulations to all of the Patriot District Scouts who were able to overcome huge obstacles to earn their rank of Eagle Scout during the pandemic. And congratulations to all of Patriot's Inaugural Class of female Eagle Scouts, a prestigious achievement made even more grand by leading the way for many more future female Eagle Scouts.

COVID-19 has affected all of us, and we continue to support each other as our country manages the public health emergency we face. At times like these, needs increase, and so too does the generosity of our fantastic Scouting Family. Our Council's annual fundraising program, Friends of Scouting, has kicked off for 2021. Thank you to the many Patriot donors who have already renewed their gift for this year. If you would like to contribute, please visit [Ways to Give - National Capital Area Council \(ncacbsa.org\)](https://www.ncacbsa.org) to donate online. It is important to note that a gift to Friends of Scouting benefits **OUR DISTRICT** by supporting program, camping facilities, training, unit recruitment, and insurance to protect Scout leaders and youth.

Yours in Scouting,

Sarah McKee | Patriot District Executive
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Sarah.McKee@scouting.org | www.NCACBSA.org



Bryan on Scouting is the official blog of Scouting magazine, a BSA publication. One of the recent entries on the blog entitled "Get inspired by this never-ending list of virtual den meeting ideas!" should be of value and interest to Patriot District Cub Scout leaders. The link to the article, and to information on how to subscribe to the blog (it's free): <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2021/02/02/get-inspired-by-this-never-ending-list-of-virtual-den-meeting-ideas/>

The Checklist That Must be Used Before Holding Any In-Person Meetings



RESTART SCOUTING CHECKLIST

As always, the safety of our Scouts, volunteers, employees and communities is our top priority. This checklist outlines several minimum guiding protocols that adult leaders/volunteers must consider while working with local and state health departments, local councils, chartered organizations and Scouting families on when and how to resume meetings, service projects, camping and all other official Scouting activities.

S = Supervision

- Understand local and state guidance on preventing COVID-19 exposure.
- Engage your chartered organization and local council on necessary adjustments.
- Conduct the “before you gather” protocols.

A = Assessment

- Identify participants who fall under the CDC’s group of higher-risk individuals. Notify all participants about the risks of participating since COVID-19 exposure cannot be eliminated.
- Verify that the planned activity, gathering or group sizes are not prohibited by local or state orders.

F = Fitness and Skill

- Review Annual Health and Medical Records and consider using a [pre-event screening](#) for all participants.

E = Equipment and Environment

- Verify that handwashing, hygiene and cleaning supplies are available and used properly.
- Monitor social distancing, interactions and sharing of equipment and food among participants.
- Monitor participants for changing health conditions.
- Use the “as you gather” protocols.

SAFE ≠ Risk-Free

As the response to the pandemic shifts to a state-focused, phased approach, the Boy Scouts of America advises local councils to consult with their local and state health departments, as well as local chartered partners, to implement appropriate protocols to help keep our members, volunteers and employees safe.

Precautions and mitigation strategies are important, but they cannot eliminate the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness when in-person activities resume.

People with COVID-19 may show no signs or symptoms of illness, but they can spread the virus. Some people may be contagious before their symptoms occur. The fact is that someone with COVID-19 may pass the required health screenings and be allowed into program activities.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. If you are in this group, please ensure you have approval from your health care provider prior to resuming in-person Scouting activities.

Every member, volunteer and family must evaluate their unique circumstances and make an informed decision before attending in-person activities.

We hope this information will be helpful as you make that choice.

For updates, please monitor <https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus>

Before you gather:

- ❑ **Consult** your council and chartered organization to understand community standards and protocols in place.
- ❑ **Communicate** to all parents and youth that the Boy Scouts of America recommends that no one in the higher-risk category take part in person. Continue to engage virtually.
- ❑ **Communicate** that anyone who feels sick must [stay home](#). If you become sick or develop symptoms, isolate yourself then go home and seek care.
- ❑ **Educate and train** all participants on appropriate social distancing, [cleaning and disinfecting](#), [hand hygiene](#) and [respiratory \(cough or sneeze\) etiquette](#) before meeting for the first time. Periodically reinforce the behaviors as needed.
- ❑ **Before attending**, upon arrival and at least daily for longer events, all participants [should be screened](#) for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Diarrhea
 - Feeling feverish or having a temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19
- ❑ **As appropriate**, participants should have [face coverings](#) available to wear when gathering or when in public areas or venues. Several coverings per person may be needed.
- ❑ **Communicate** that those who take part in person should avoid contact with higher-risk individuals for 14 days after the event.

As you gather:

- ❑ **Minimize group sizes**. Small groups of participants who stay together all day every day, remain [6 feet apart](#) and do not share objects are at the lowest risk. Think of a den or patrol that does not mix or gather with other dens or patrols, with supervision that stays with the small group. *Scouting's [Barriers to Abuse](#) always apply.*
- ❑ **Stay local** to your geographic area and groups for unit activities. If you must travel, limit mixing with others along the way.
- ❑ **Minimize mixing** with parents or siblings unless they are part of the unit activity. For example, the same parent picks up and drops off youth, and stays in the car. No guests or visitors who have not been through the pre-gathering protocols and screenings should take part.
- ❑ **Have hand sanitizer**, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available for use at meetings, activities and campouts.
- ❑ **Minimize the use** of common areas and shared tools. If unavoidable, they should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- ❑ **Develop dining protocols** (including but not limited to):
 - No self-serve buffet meals or common water coolers.
 - Use of disposable utensils, napkins, cups and plates.
 - Clean and disinfect eating and cooking gear after each use.
- ❑ **Develop tenting protocols** for the group:
 - Minimize use of fans or devices that stir the air.
 - Campers should sleep head-to-toe in bunks or cots spaced as far apart as possible.
 - Individual tents, hammocks and bivvys may be considered.
- ❑ **During program activities**:
 - Equipment that must be shared should be disinfected before and after each use.
 - Where possible, assign activity-related protective equipment for the duration of an event to a single individual (life jacket, gloves, harness).
 - Effective handwashing before and after each program area use.
- ❑ **In case of an injury or illness**, promptly report the incident, including COVID-19 exposures. Utilize [Incident Reporting Resources](#), including COVID-19 instructions.

When you get home:

- ❑ **Avoid contact** with higher-risk individuals for 14 days.
 - ❑ **Monitor** for any signs of illness for 14 days, and
- ❑ **Communicate** with your unit leadership should you develop symptoms.

Patriot District Events

Web Calendar: www.ncacbsa.org/patriot

February 2021

- 9 Commissioner Meeting (*virtual*)
- 11 Roundtable (*virtual*)
- 14 Patriot District OA chapter meeting (*virtual*)
- 15 Presidents' Day
- 20-21 Wilderness First Aid/CPR/AED, Session 2 (Camp Snyder)
- 23 PD Committee Meeting (*virtual*)
- 27 University of Scouting (*virtual*)
- 27 Youth Mental Health First Aid Training for Leaders
- 27-28 Wilderness First Aid/CPR/AED, Session 2B (Camp Snyder)



March 2021

- 1 Patriot Press Deadline – March Issue
- 9 Commissioner Meeting (*virtual*)
- 11 Roundtable (*virtual*)
- 13-14 Commissioner College (*virtual*)
- 13-14 Wilderness First Aid/CPR/AED, Session 3 (Camp Snyder)
- 14 Daylight Saving Time begins (2 AM)
- 14 Patriot District OA chapter meeting (*virtual*)
- 23 PD Committee Meeting (*virtual*)
- 27 Passover begins (sundown)
- 27-28 Wilderness First Aid/CPR/AED, Session 3B (Camp Snyder)
- 29 Patriot Press Deadline - April Issue

April 2021

- 4 Easter Sunday
- 8 Roundtable (*virtual*)
- 9-11 OA Lodge Fellowship (*virtual*)
- 11 Patriot District OA chapter meeting (*virtual*)
- 13 Commissioner Meeting (*virtual*)
- 16 "Early Bird" Deadline for Summer Camp Fees
- 17 Life-to-Eagle Seminar (*virtual*)
- 17-18 Wilderness First Aid/CPR/AED, Session 4 (Camp Snyder)
- 24-25 Wilderness First Aid/CPR/AED, Session 4B (Camp Snyder)
- 27 PD Committee Meeting (*virtual*)

BALOO Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation	NYLT National Youth Leadership Training
BCOLS Back Country Outdoor Leader Skills	OA Order of the Arrow
CPST Cubmaster Position-Specific Training	SPST Scoutmaster Position-Specific Training
IOLS Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills	VAPST Venture Advisor Position-Specific Training
JSN Join Scouting Night	VCPST Varsity Coach Position-Specific Training
NLE New Leader Essentials	VOA Venturing Officers Association





All Cub Scout Leaders, Come Out and Join us for Fun & Fellowship and to Pick-Up some New Ideas for your Pack and Den Programs!

The Purpose of the Roundtable:

To provide the skill to do – skills, techniques, information, program ideas – and the know-how that makes for successful unit operation.

To provide unit leadership with the will to do – the morale, enthusiasm, inspiration, and vision that periodically renew the desire to serve youth.

When: Thursday, February 11, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom: Connection instructions will be sent via email.

Midway: 7:30 PM (via Zoom) **Roundtable:** 8:00 – 9:00 PM (via Zoom)

Topics: Commissioners: What Are They, Being the Change, Advancement

Word of the month: Obedient

*Cory Okouchi, Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner
cweskridge@gmail.com*



Patriot District Scouts BSA Roundtable

Not just for Scoutmasters

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Virtual Meeting: Connection instructions will be sent via email.

Social: 7:30 PM (get signed in to Zoom)

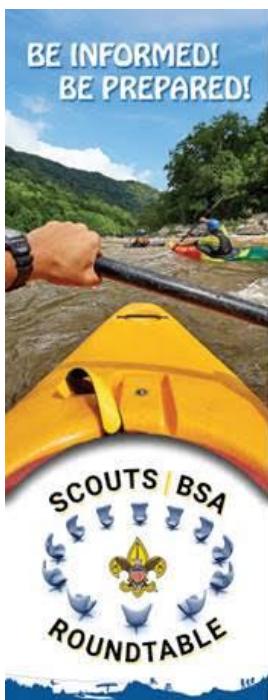
Midway: 7:45 PM, **Roundtable:** 8:00 - 9:00 PM

Please invite another leader from your Troop to join us at Roundtable!

Topics: Games – Virtual and In-Person
Guide to Safe Scouting

Covid-19 Corner: How Is Your Troop Doing?

*Joe Margraf, Scouts BSA Roundtable Commissioner
(703) 314-1622, joedenisemargraf@aol.com
Asst. Scouts BSA RT Commissioner: Rick Priest*



Patriot District Program News

Deadlines for Eagle Scout NESA Scholarships Extended

The Scouting magazine blog “Bryan on Scouting” has an interesting article on NESA Scholarships. The deadline has been extended to February 12. There are five Scholarships opportunities, and 53 scholarships were awarded in the four BSA Regions last year. The article describes the five scholarship opportunities and eligibility criteria. It also provides a link to the application process.

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2021/01/26/deadlines-extended-for-eagle-scouts-to-apply-for-these-nesa-scholarships/>

Cub Scout Day Camp 2021 Theme: Weird Science

Day Camp registration is now open on the Council web site. Details and a link to the registration process can be found here: <https://www.ncacbsa.org/day-camp>. No one knows what the COVID environment next July is going to be, but the Patriot District is working full-steam with neighboring districts to plan a local, full, in-person Day Camp program for next July 12–16, 2021 at Occoquan Regional Park. We’re planning on most of the normal, popular features like the Climbing Wall, Archery, Scout Skills, Slingshot Range and more. We will need both youth and adult staff for the week, including some program director positions (Archery, Climbing Wall, first aid) that require BSA certifications. Certification classes will be offered at Camp Snyder in the Spring. If interested, contact the Day Camp Director at patriotdistrictdaycamp@gmail.com and we’ll be in touch.



No Scout Should Miss Summer Camp Because of a Financial Need: Camperships

Camperships are available from the Council to Scouts with a financial need. Each year the Endowment Committee releases a portion of the endowment money to help families in need send their kids to camp. Often, not all of the available funds are spent, so do not be bashful. Generally, a link to the campership application is found on the registration page for the camp. If you have questions, contact the Camping Office at Council (301) 214-9155.

- Here is a link to the Day Camp application: <https://www.ncacbsa.org/day-camp-campership-application/>
 - Here is the link to the Goshen campership application: <https://www.gotogoshen.org/registration/#camperships>
 - Here is the link for Snyder Campership. Scroll to the bottom for the link to the application. <https://www.gotosnyder.org/summer-camp/>
 - For Philmont High Adventure Campership: <https://www.ncacbsa.org/philmont-scout-ranch-overview-by-ncac-hac/>
-

Early Bird Registration Discount Fee Deadlines

The Early Bird Discount is available through Friday, April 16 for all Council resident and Day Camps. A late fee is charged for all registrations after Friday May 14th.

For Goshen, all who pay in full by the Early Bird Deadline will be eligible for the new Goshen hat! If you wish to embroider your hat for an additional cost, you may do so in the registration portal before the early deadline.

Goshen's Deposit Phase ends on March 1. Starting March 1, units can register their remaining campers, and provisional campers can begin to sign up.

Camp Staff Applications and Interviews Are Now Open

Ask anyone who has spent a summer as a camp counsellor and most often you will hear that it is the hardest job he/she has had but the job that they have most loved. For a young person, spending the summer as a camp counsellor provides unique opportunities for growth, leadership experience and skills found nowhere else. Unit leaders and other Scouters should encourage young men and women to seriously consider the many counsellor opportunities in our council. Generally, Scouts at least 14 years old are welcome to apply as Counsellors-in-training; although they are not paid, they receive room and board and a year's experience that counts for increased salary the following year. Scouts 15 and over can apply for paid staff positions, and those 18 and over can apply for some director positions. Camp and Program Directors and some area directors must be at least 21.



For Goshen visit: <https://www.gotogoshen.org/information/goshen-staff/#jobs>

For Snyder, visit: <https://www.gotosnyder.org/work-volunteer/summer-camp-staff/>

NOTE: July 18 – July 24, 2021 Scout Specialty Camp at Snyder. Snyder is looking for volunteer adults to be provisional Scoutmasters and Merit Badge Counsellors. For more information see:

<https://www.gotosnyder.org/summer-camp/specialty-week/>

Program Ideas and Information—All Levels

The links below provide a wide variety of ideas, and events for Cubs Scouts, Scouts BSA, and Venture and Sea Scouts. For program opportunities for units at all levels, visit the Council's Program Blog at <https://weownadventure.org> and Facebook page at

<https://facebook.com/groups/ncacbsavolunteers/>

Sample stories include:

- Service project ideas
- Youth Leadership Training events
- Adult training opportunities
- Stories of units that have done some great things
- News stories

Pinewood Derby

In normal years we would be well into the early stages of individual Packs preparing for the annual Patriot District Pinewood Derby. However, this year things are being delayed by pandemic constraints in the hope that we can meet in person. The event has tentatively been scheduled for **Saturday, May 15, 2021** at Living Savior Lutheran Church, the same location as in many past years. The state of the pandemic will determine whether we meet inside or outside, and whether we must gather only a few at a time or in larger groups. Plan your own Pack-level events and stay tuned for additional details regarding the District PWD as they become available.



*John Merchant
Vice Chair, Program*



Order of the Arrow News Items



Chapter Meeting Sunday Afternoon February 14 at 3:30 via ZOOM

We will have a guest speaker: Gabriel Cooper, Lodge Vice Chief for Operations. He'll talk with us about some program opportunities in the coming year. We will also review some of the highlights of the Section ACT Conference held on Friday and Saturday, January 22 and 23.

Unit Election Status

At the Chapter meeting we will also see where we are with regards to scheduling elections and putting some election teams together. If you can help with an election, please be prepared to let the VC for Elections know which elections you can help cover. We need people who have done it once or twice to work with members have not helped with an election. We also need to encourage our members to work with their unit leaders to be sure your unit has a Unit OA Representative and Adviser. We have a few, but each unit should have an OA rep.

Pay your 2021 Dues!

For Scouts who completed their OA ordeal this past fall, your dues are paid through 2021. For the rest of us, dues for 2021 are due now. <https://wipit470.org/dues.html>. Scouts may not wear the sash or participate in OA events unless they are current with their dues. It's a bargain at \$14. If you pay after April 1st, dues go up to \$16. Also, for each Scout who renews their membership by April 1st, the Chapter receives an additional \$2 for its own use. We are looking into T-Shirts at a subsidized cost and as incentives for participation "above and beyond."



"Happiness depends more upon the internal frame of a person's own mind than on the externals in the world."

~ George Washington (b. February 22, 1732)

NCAC 2020 Membership Stats

Congratulations to Our Patriot District Units and the NCAC for Making Scouting Available to the Youth in Our Community: You all deserve a big round of applause!!!

The success of our units in doing both creative things and the usual things to invite other community youth to become members of our Patriot District units has contributed to the National Capital Area Council's great record for its end of year membership stats. Our NCAC was ranked:

- #2 in # ScoutsBSA members recruited
- #3 in # Venturers/Sea Scouts recruited
- #2 in # total traditional youth recruited
- #7 in # total female Cubs registered
- #1 in # total female ScoutsBSA members registered
- #3 in # total females registered

But don't let us rest on our laurels. Continue to plan new and creative ways to reach out to the youth in our community while staying safe as we follow the current COVID guidelines from the local and state governments, as well as from our Scout Council office (NCAC). When possible think of activities that attract the community (Burke Fest, Celebrate Fairfax, Sully Historic Site Antique Car Show, setting up an Orienteering or Geocache course, hosting Lego Man, Rocket launches, virtual Family camping with a virtual campfire, and other community-wide events).

Lastly, if you know of any areas in the District that could potentially sponsor a new unit and have any contacts with the organization please let me know. The sites could be school PTAs, Veteran Service Organizations, neighborhoods, churches, or other civic institutions. We all want as many youths as possible in the area to benefit from Scouting, effectively supported by the many adult volunteer leaders who step forward to facilitate the program developing our youth members into the leaders of tomorrow. Whether it be a new Pack, Troop, Crew, Post, or Sea Scout Ship, let's see if we can get at least one new unit proposed for organizing somewhere in the Patriot District during 2021.

P.S. If you have a strong desire to help in the strengthening the potential for new units in our District, I encourage you to contact me and join me on the Membership Committee.

Yours in Scouting,

John R. Stewart
Vice Chair, Membership



*“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed
is more important than any one thing.”*

~ Abraham Lincoln (b. February 12, 1809)



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL

2020 Highlights

COMMUNITY SERVICE	
Service Hours	52,271 hours of socially distanced projects
Hours per Scout	1.5 hours per Scout
Eagle Service Hours	189,867
Value of Service Hours	\$1.5 million – based on data provided by Independent Sector
Scouting For Food	Over 300,000 pounds collected, donated to local food banks
ADVANCEMENT & RECOGNITION	
Cub Scout Ranks	13,120 (Includes Bobcat through Arrow of Light)
Scouts BSA Ranks	8,398 (Includes Scout Rank through Eagle Scout)
Eagle Scouts	1,100
Merit Badges	27,943 earned in 138 topic areas
STEM Supernova Awards	90
STEM@Home	941 participants at 18 events in this speaker series
Silver Beavers	23
Outstanding Eagle Scouts	15
CAMPING	
Family Camping	260 families camped at Goshen and Camp Snyder
Homecamping	552 Scouts earned over 1,000 merit badges in online summer camp programs
TRAINING	
Wood Badge	79 participants in two courses
University of Scouting	1,000 participants
NYLT	38 participants
FINANCIAL	
Popcorn Sale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$1,071,506 raised for local Scout units during the pandemic! ● 214 Scouting units selling ● \$20,000 of snacks donated to local National Guard
Prepared. For Life. Gala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5th Annual Prepared. For Life. Gala honored frontline workers ● Our featured keynote speaker was Dr. Anthony Fauci ● Introduced the John Graham Association Award in memory of longtime friend of Scouting and past NCAC board president John H. Graham IV
Endowment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$87,000 in new gifts to ensure Scouting's future
MEMBERSHIP	
Membership Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● #1 nationally in female Scouts BSA members! ● #2 nationally in new members joining during the pandemic!
Total Youth Served	36,637
Youth Retention Rate	70% of youth members renewed their membership!
Total Units	1,101
New Units	24
Total Volunteers	14,709

Unaudited; current as of 1/15/2021

This is a quick snapshot of what your support helped us accomplish in 2020. To learn more please visit ncacannualreport.org

Patriot District Advancements 2020

In case you were wondering, Scouts from the Patriot District were able to keep on growing through advancement in 2020 despite the ongoing pandemic. Advancement is not an end but goal overall, but it is one the methods unit leaders use to achieve the aims and mission of the Boy Scouts of America

In 2020, Patriot District youth in Scouts BSA earned over 500 rank advancements, including more than 60 awards of Eagle Scout and Summit. Along the way they also earned more than 1700 merit badges. Our Cub Scouts earned over 765 rank advancements, including more than 130 Arrow of Light awards.

By the way, the new Eagle Scout Service Project workbook has been updated. Buts have been fixed and the updated workbook was posted to the web on February 1st. Check it out at [Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook | Boy Scouts of America \(scouting.org\)](#).

Eagle, Summit, Quartermaster Highlights:

New Eagle Rank Extension Requests Policy/Procedures

Effective January 1, 2021, local councils will have the authority to grant limited extensions of time to complete Eagle, Summit, or Quartermaster requirements. Scouts or their representatives must make the re-quest to their local councils for time extensions beyond their 18th birthday to work on their Eagle Rank requirements (for Venture Scouts or Sea Scouts to work on their Summit Rank or Quartermaster Rank requirements, respectively, beyond their 21st birthday).

The topics regarding the new policies and procedures can currently be found at www.scouting.org/advancement and will later be included in the 2021 edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (GTA), which will be published early in the year.

These extensions are only available to youth members who qualify under the three tests listed in GTA topic 9.0.4.0. The process for requesting a time extension is outlined in topic 9.0.4.1. An appeal process is covered in topic 9.0.4.2. Related forms for re-questing either a time extension (11.2.0.0) or an appeal (11.2.1.0) are also posted on the website.

The three tests extension requirement may be reviewed in the 2021 *Guide to Advancement*, which will supersede any similar topics in previous *Guide to Advancement* publications.

There is no plan to authorize future COVID-specific extensions as was allowed in 2020. COVID could become a circumstance that warrants a council-granted extension if it qualifies under the three tests listed in GTA topic 9.0.4.0. Note that existing COVID extensions granted between October 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020, will expire three months after they were granted.

Reminder: Upon turning 18, the Scout must complete an Adult Application, registering with Participation Code UP and Scouting position title Unit Participant, and complete Youth Protection Training.

Tom Tyra
Advancement Chair



YMHFA Training is Back!!

If a Scout in your unit died by suicide you would be devastated. No doubt you would vow to do everything in your power to stop such an event from ever happening in your, or another, unit ever again.

The time to make that vow is **NOW** – before something happens!!

After a long pandemic-caused hiatus, we are pleased to announce that Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training is back – and will be offered virtually. As we are all painfully aware, mental health issues - including depression, feelings of helplessness and loneliness, being bullied, and thoughts of suicide - are no stranger to the youth we support, and they have been exacerbated by the current crisis and remote education. As adult volunteer Scout leaders, it is incumbent upon us to know how to recognize and respond to the signs of mental illness and duress. This knowledge can literally be the difference between life and death.

We are partnering with the Fairfax County Community Services Board (CSB) to offer a training course in Youth Mental Health First Aid to help prevent teen suicide. This is similar to the training that Fairfax County School System teachers, administrators, and staff members receive. The same instructors from Fairfax County CSB, Wellness and Prevention Team have agreed to provide that training.

We're excited to report that our first virtual session will be held on **Saturday, 27 February from 10 AM-4:30 PM**. There will be a break for lunch. There are a few changes from when we held these in person. Please note the following:

- Register with Mark Greer at mfgreer@verizon.net
- The cost is \$26. Once you register, you'll be told where to send the check.
- There is a mandatory 2-3 hours of "prework" (two modules) that **MUST** be completed in advance of attending the class.
- Registration provides you access to the LMS or Learning Management System for the YMHFA Course where all course materials and the prep reading will be found.
- You must use a full-size computer/laptop with a camera, mic, and speakers. You are expressly asked not to use a phone or other handheld device. Please no multi-tasking.
- All participants will receive a YMHFA certificate of completion and an NCAC sanctioned patch demonstrating achievement!

Don't miss out! Don't Wait! We can only serve 20 volunteers - register now for this essential training. We are currently planning on providing these courses every other month starting in Feb. Dates TBD. To register, please email Mark Greer at mfgreer@verizon.net. Please include a mailing address and phone number. Mark can also answer any questions you may have.



Troop 1865B Food Drive

A number of food drives conducted in recent months by Patriot District Scouts have been reported in recent issues of the Patriot Press. The January issue included a summary of these worthy efforts, which collected and donated more than 8 tons of food in 2020, including more than 2 tons to ECHO. Not reported to date was the food drive conducted by Troop 1865B on November 21 at the Safeway on Burke Center Parkway.

Over a period of six hours, more than 30 Scouts and adult volunteers working in shifts at the store entrances received almost 1,200 pounds of food that were donated to ECHO in Springfield. They also received \$915 in cash donations, which together with the Troop's own contribution, enabled a \$1,000 donation to FACETS, which serves individuals and families who are homeless, have low income, are unstably housed, or at risk of homelessness in Fairfax County. The effort also supported Friends of Scouting through the sale of \$140 in camp cards.



Seeking Scoutmasters for Camp Snyder Merit Badge Week 2021

Scouters, we're looking for adult leaders with Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster experience to fill 10 positions, to guide up to 100 provisional overnight camping and 50-day camper Scouts BSA during the Camp Snyder Merit Badge Week of July 18-24, 2021. This camp will be conducted with NCAC approved COVID-19 virus transmission precautions.



As a temporary Scoutmaster, you will monitor and guide small provisional groups of Scouts BSA during the day and/or overnight. We need male and female Scoutmasters for the expected male and female mix of Scouts BSA who will be participating. Oversight in monitoring compliance with the camps COVID-19 virus transmission precautions will be particularly important.

During the day there will be adult led Merit Badge classes. Outside of the classroom, Scoutmasters will need to oversee dining inside and outside of the Marriott Dining Hall, as well as the fun activities, like the swimming pool and night-time campfires. Overnight Scoutmasters will camp with their provisional units in the Camp Snyder campsites.

This is an opportunity for former or current Scoutmasters or Assistants with a flexible schedule to serve our youth in a time of need! We desire Scoutmasters who can spend part or all of the week during the day and overnight but will certainly welcome those that can only serve during the day or overnight to fill these 10 around-the-clock positions.

If interested, please contact Rick Ferry, rt.ferry72@gmail.com or Dave Seitz, dbseitz@gmail.com



*“Freedom is not the sole prerogative of a chosen few,
but the universal right of all God's children.”*

~ Ronald Reagan (b. February 6, 1911)



**PATRIOT DISTRICT
NO CONTACT FOOD DRIVE
MARCH 20, 2021**

Patriot District BSA Scouts will be holding a No Contact Food Drive on SATURDAY, March 20th to help stock ECHO pantries, which are struggling to meet the needs of our residents living in Burke, West Springfield, Springfield, Fairfax Station, and Fairfax City who were affected by the pandemic.

More information to come.

B-P Still Wants You!



To Join the Patriot District Committee Great Jobs for Great Volunteers

Take your Scouting leadership to an exciting and rewarding new level.

Work with other great Scouters providing great programs for great Scouts.

Contact Bill Dexter: wtdexterjr@gmail.com

The Patriot Press, Patriot District National Capital Area Council

The Patriot Press is the monthly newsletter of the Patriot District, NCAC, Scouts BSA. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the official policies of the National Capital Area Council or Scouts BSA. This newsletter is provided eleven times each year (not in July) and posted at <http://www.ncacbsa.org/PatriotPress>

Deadline for articles to be included in *The Patriot Press* is two Sundays prior to Roundtable. Articles for publication, in MS Word, may be emailed to the editor at bsnowden419@gmail.com.

Key District Contacts

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Bill Snowden	Editor, Patriot Press	bsnowden419@gmail.com



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA SCOUTER CODE OF CONDUCT

On my honor, I promise to do my best to comply with this Boy Scouts of America Scouter Code of Conduct while serving in my capacity as an adult leader:

- 1. I have completed or will complete my registration with the Boy Scouts of America, answering all Questions truthfully and honestly.**
- 2. I will do my best to live up to the Scout Oath and Scout Law, obey all laws, and hold others in Scouting accountable to those standards. I will exercise sound judgment and demonstrate good leadership and use the Scouting program for its intended purpose consistent with the mission of the Boy Scouts of America.**
- 3. I will make the protection of youth a personal priority. I will complete and remain current with Youth Protection training requirements. I will be familiar with and follow:**
 - BSA Youth Protection policies and guidelines, including mandatory reporting: www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/
 - The Guide to Safe Scouting: www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss
 - The Sweet Sixteen of BSA Safety: www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/sweet16
- 4. When transporting youth, I will obey all laws, comply with Youth Protection guidelines, and follow safe driving practices.**
- 5. I will respect and abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America, BSA policies, and BSA-provided training, including but not limited to those relating to:**
 - Unauthorized fundraising activities
 - Advocacy on social and political issues, including prohibited use of the BSA uniform and brand
 - Bullying, hazing, harassment, and unlawful discrimination of any kind
- 6. I will not discuss or engage in any form of sexual conduct while engaged in Scouting activities. I will refer youth with questions regarding these topics to talk to their parents or spiritual advisor.**
- 7. I confirm that I have fully disclosed and will disclose in the future any of the following:**
 - Any criminal suspicion, charges, or convictions of a crime or offense involving abuse, violence, sexual misconduct, or any misconduct involving minors or juveniles
 - Any investigation or court order involving domestic violence, child abuse, or similar matter
 - Any criminal charges or convictions for offenses involving controlled substances, driving while intoxicated, firearms, or dangerous weapons
- 8. I will not possess, distribute, transport, consume, or use any of the following items prohibited by law or in violation of any Scouting rules, regulations, and policies:**
 - Alcoholic beverages or controlled substances, including marijuana
 - Concealed or unconcealed firearms, fireworks, or explosives
 - Pornography or materials containing words or images inconsistent with Scouting values
- 9. If I am taking prescription medications with the potential of impairing my functioning or judgment, I will not engage in activities that would put youth at risk, including driving or operating equipment.**
- 10. I will take steps to prevent or report any violation of this code of conduct by others in connection with Scouting activities.**

SCOUT OATH

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
And to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
Mentally awake, and morally straight.

SCOUT LAW

Trustworthy
Loyal
Helpful
Friendly
Courteous
Kind
Obedient
Cheerful
Thrifty
Brave
Clean
Reverent

