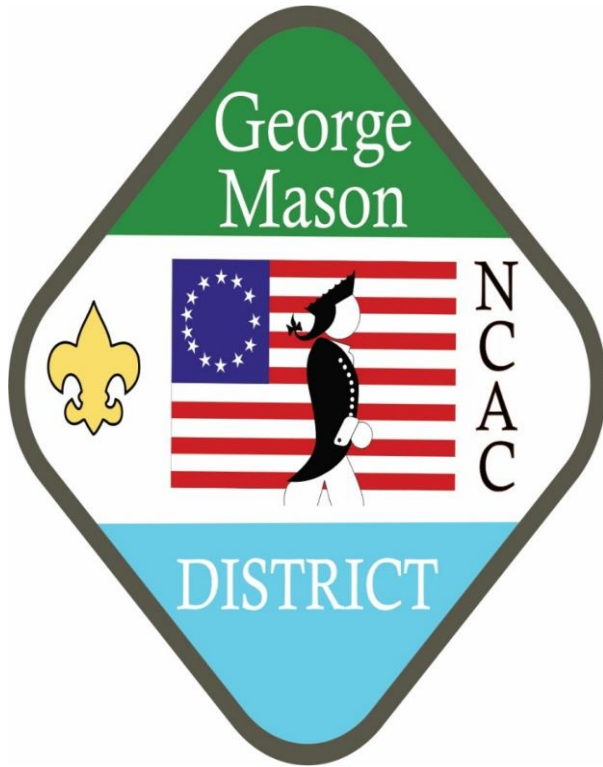




# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020

*"Do more than is required of you." George S. Patton*



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 the 9/10/2020 – Virtual:  
District Court of Honor at 7:00 pm  
followed by the Roundtable Meeting

#### USEFUL LINKS:

[NCAC Council Website](#)

[National BSA](#)

[National Order of the Arrow](#)

[wipit470.org](http://wipit470.org)



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## 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.

*If it is not practical to meet these minimal protocols, do not restart in-person 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>



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## 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 screening 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 bivys 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.

BIN 680-693  
June 2020



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## Calendar of Events – Links included if available

09/02/20 - **NCAC Roundtable (6:30pm)**, Virtual Meeting

09/08/20 - **District Commissioners** (7:30pm), Virtual Meeting

09/10/20 - **District Court of Honor/Roundtable** (7:00pm), Virtual Meeting

09/11/20 - **Powderhorn**, Virginia Beach/Norfolk/Chesapeake/Zoom

09/12/20 - **STEM Event Day**, Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA

09/12/20 - 09/13/20 - **STEM Family Camping**, Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA

09/18/20 - **Powderhorn**, Virginia Beach/Norfolk/Chesapeake/Zoom

09/18-20 & 10/17-18/20 - **Woodbadge**, Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA

09/26/20 - **Life to Eagle Seminar (1pm - 4pm)**, Virtual **Register online at George Mason Life to Eagle Seminar by 09/21/20 to get a Zoom link**

09/26/2020 - Two hour game-playing sessions at Camp Snyder, Haymarket, Va. where families can enjoy a Challenging Outdoor Fun-filled Family-Engaged Experience.

09/30/20 - **District Committee** (7:15pm), Virtual Meeting

09/26-27/2020 – Aquia District IOLS - [Aquia IOLS Registration](#)

10/2-3/2020 – George Mason Order of the Arrow Ordeal, Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA

10/24/2020 – Two-hour game-playing sessions at Camp Snyder, Haymarket, Va. where families can enjoy a Challenging Outdoor Fun-filled Family-Engaged Experience.



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

11/07/2020 - Scouting for Food (Tags)

11/08/2020 - [Flags-In \(Veterans Day\)](#), National Memorial Park, Falls Church, VA

11/14/2020 - Scouting for Food (Pickup)

11/21/2020 – Pow Wow – Virtual [NCAC Pow Wow Registration](#)

11/21/2020 - Two-hour game-playing sessions at Camp Snyder, Haymarket, Va. where families can enjoy a Challenging Outdoor Fun-filled Family-Engaged Experience.

December 2020 - Peace Light of Bethlehem

February 2021 - Life to Eagle Seminar

02/27/2021 - University of Scouting, Alexandria, VA

March 2021 - District Pinewood Derby

March 2021 - District Merit Badge Day

04/2021 - Eagle Recognition Dinner

04/2021 - District Court of Honor

04/30/2021 - 05/02/2021 - Spring Camporee (Location and Theme TBD)

04/30/2021 – 05/02/2021 - Spring George Mason/Patriot Chapter Order of the Arrow Ordeal weekend

05/30/2021 - Flags-In, National Memorial Park, Falls Church, VA

10/15/2021 – 10/17/2021 – Fall Camporee (Location and Theme TBD)



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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL

## CHARTER RENEWAL

### Information

*Notice: The 2020 Membership Fees have been changed. The new fees are:*

- \$60 per youth in Cubs, Troops, Venturing, Sea Scouts
- \$24 for council paid registration (ScoutReach) Youth
- \$36 Exploring youth
- \$36 for all adults
- \$60 for each unit a chartered organization charters

All the information you need to prepare you for the upcoming Charter Renewal season is available at the Council's Charter Renewal page:

<https://www.ncacbsa.org/charter-renewal/>

Major milestones:

- Your unit's charter ends on December 31, 2020
- Units will receive system log on information by mid-September
- The Charter Renewal System opens on October 1, 2020

Good practices for a timely renewal:

- YPT – review YPT dates for all leaders and let those know who expire between now and May 1 2021 to re-take YPT in September/October 2020
- Process paper and online applications as soon as you receive them – do not hold on to them!
- Get organized and start preparing a membership inventory - identify who is in, who is missing from the roster, what positions adult leaders will play in 2021, etc.
- Get signatures from the Chartering organization early on – get the Institutional Head to sign the Unit Charter Agreement now; that way, you are not chasing a signature around Christmas time!
- Aim at turning in your charter renewal paperwork by December 1, 2020
- Keep your Unit Commissioner involved! He / she will help you through the process



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## Training Opportunities

Note: Due to the Coronavirus outbreak many events are postponed or cancelled. Check with the organizer about the status of specific events.

### Cub Scout:

- **Cubmaster Position Specific:**
  - 12/05/20 - [Gaithersburg, MD](#)
- **Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO):**
  - 09/11/20 - [Fredericksburg, MD](#)
- **PowWow**
  - 11/21/20 - [Virtual](#)

### Scout:

- **Scoutmaster Position Specific Training**
  - 09/26/20 - [Gaithersburg, MD](#)
  - 12/05/20 - [Gaithersburg, MD](#)
- **Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS):**
  - 09/11/20 - [Lorton, VA](#) NCAC Wood Badge Adult course
    - 09/18-20/2020 & 10/17-18/2020 Both weekends required – [Camp Snyder](#), Haymarket, VA

### District:

- **Commissioners:**
  - 09/26/20 [Commissioners Basic Training/Roundtable Registration](#) Gaithersburg, MD

### Miscellaneous:

#### **Community Emergency Response Training**

- Fairfax County [CERT](#) training - take your Emergency Prep to the next level by attending the CERT - Contact: [Jeffrey Katz](#) (Volunteer Liaison, 703-246-3926)

#### **Den Chief Training**

- Available on-line at [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org)



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## **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)

## **High Adventure Bases Training**

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

- **Various**

## **Outdoor Ethics/Leave No Trace Trainer Course**

- 9/14/2020 - <https://scoutingevent.com/082-virtual3>
- 10/19/2020 - <https://scoutingevent.com/082-virtual3>

## **Stop the Bleed - How to stop bleeding in a severely injured person**

- **Various**

## **Trainer's Edge**

- **TBD**

## **University of Scouting**

- 02/27/21 - **Alexandria, VA**





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## C.O.F.F.E.E. Break During COVID-19 For The Family!

On Sep 26, Oct 24, and Nov 21, we'd like to offer two hour game-playing sessions at Camp William B. Snyder where families can enjoy a Challenging Outdoor Fun-filled Family-Engaged Experience. Unlike a typical high element C.O.P.E. session of 6-15 participants, there may be 2 families of 2-4 people each competing or cooperating lawn activities, games, and team challenges that are fun and will be memorable experience. Look for registration details on the NCAC website: <https://www.ncacbsa.org/c-o-p-e-climbing/>

George Mason POC: John Lesko [johnlesko57@gmail.com](mailto:johnlesko57@gmail.com)



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## Wood Badge – 9/18-20/2020 & 10/17-18/2020 (Both weekends required)

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.
- 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.



[Wood Badge Fall 2020 Registration](#)



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## Commissioner College Dean's Robert L. Dize Gold Award

On August 29, 2020, NCAC Commissioner College Dean Julia Mae-Shen Lesko presented the Dean's Gold Award to George Mason District's **Patrick Berney**, who has served continuously as a unit commissioner for over 30 years, while also serving 3 years as the immediate past district commissioner. He is known as the quintessential servant leader who strives to help units run a better Scouting program. The district greatly appreciates all the wealth of knowledge and advice this long-time commissioner shares in educating fellow commissioners. Congratulations, Patrick Berney!



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## NCAC University of Scouting – 2/27/2021

Purpose of the 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, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouting, District Operations, and Council*). Whether you are new to the program or a veteran of many years, the University provides interesting courses in Cubbing, Scouts, and Adventure and leadership training for Venturing, and Sea Scouting; Electives courses applicable across the Scouting programs, and District operations courses.

- The **College of Cub Scouting** provides a wide variety of courses from working with Cub Scout-aged boys to pack administration to planning for an outdoor program, all focused on meeting Scouting goals while having fun as a pack or den.
- The **College of Scouts BSA** provides an exciting variety of troop, patrol and outdoor planning supplemental courses to help manage the challenges of a great troop experience.
- The **College of Adventure Scouting** provides classes in Venturing and Sea Scout topics and a variety of classes in Adventure Scouting / High Adventure subjects and resources for Venturing Crews, Sea Scout Ships, and Scout Troops.
- The **College of Elective Programs** offers many "general studies courses" that cut across all the programs. Just about everything from diversity and special needs to using technology can be found in the Elective Programs. STEM Scouts will be covered as a subprogram (ELC500 classes) within the Electives College.
- The **College of District Operations** is intended to provide training to district committee members and Scouters with an interest in district operations. Courses will range from a two-period orientation for new members to those focusing on administration, strategic planning, recruiting, and promotion. New classes have been added on managing your committee/district with Basecamp and using Black Pug to manage scouting events.
- **Standalone Courses** are BSA national syllabus courses such as *Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews (ILSC)* that provide training for leadership positions in Scouting. Note that standalone courses do not count toward any degree requirements in any College.
- **Scoutbook Training** We are offering a full day of Scoutbook training in the College of Electives, three classes, each repeated twice. They are: Scoutbook – the Key to Organizing a Scout Unit, Scoutbook – Advancement in Cub Scouts, and Scoutbook – Advancement in Scouts BSA. Full details are at ELC classes 132, 137, and 138 on pages 31 and 32.



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## George Mason District Camping and Outdoor Program Committee:

### Fee-Free Days in the National Parks

The National Park Service (NPS) manages 419 individual parks across the country of which 109 charge admission fees. Every year, the NPS offers five days of free admission for parks that charge admission. The last of the five days in 2020 are:

-26 Sep: National Public Lands Day

-11 Nov: Veterans Day

The participating parks in our area for Fee-Free days are:

#### Maryland:

-Antietam National Battlefield

-Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park

-Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine

#### North Carolina:

-Wright Brothers National Memorial

#### Virginia:

-Assateague Island National Seashore

-Colonial National Historical Park

-George Washington Memorial Parkway's Great Falls Park

-Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

-Prince William Forest Park

-Shenandoah National Park

For more information, go to the National Park Service web site at <https://www.nps.gov/index.htm>. Finally, always check with your NPS destination Rangers for and last-minute changes.



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## Virginia DGIF Renamed DWR

On 1 July 2020, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) was renamed the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR). However, not all of the legacy DGIF websites have been changed over. The Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information Service (VaFWIS) web sites are some of those sites. The DGIF “Find Wildlife VA” site is still up and contains a wealth of information about fishing, boating and wildlife viewing.

-Fishing: <https://vafwis.dgif.virginia.gov/findwildlifeva/#/findFish>

-Wildlife viewing: <https://vafwis.dgif.virginia.gov/findwildlifeva/#/findWildlife>

-Boating access: <https://vafwis.dgif.virginia.gov/findwildlifeva/#/findBoating>

+++++

## Bull Run Regional Park

-Trails are open for hiking, biking, walking

-Disc Golf is open

-Group camping is still closed

-the Bull Run Shooting Center

--Archery Range closed from 14-24 Sep

--“Learn to Shoot” classes are now open ( <https://www.novaparks.com/parks/bull-run-shooting-center/things-to-do/learn-to-shoot-classesprivate-lessons> )

## Elk in Virginia!

After many years of petitioning by hunters, and counter-action by farmers and orchardists, the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources began a program to reintroduce elk (*Cervus Canadensis*) back into Virginia.

In 2000 DWR partnered with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to fund a feasibility study which was completed by Virginia Tech. In 2011, 16 elk were captured in Kentucky, quarantined and tested for pathogens for 90 days and then released onto an 800,000-acre refuge near Grundy, VA. By 2014, that herd of 16 had produced 75 disease-free elk that would complete the catch-and-release portion of the project. By early 2020 the disease-free herd had increased to 250 animals, and that was before the calving period!

Today these majestic animals roam portions of Buchanan County, and it is expected they will expand their territory soon. Just shows what can be accomplished through proper wildlife management supported by hunters in this great Commonwealth.

If you want to see elk in their new habitat, tune in to the elk Live Stream at [www.virginiawildlife.gov/elk-cam](http://www.virginiawildlife.gov/elk-cam)



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## GEORGE MASON DISTRICT'S

### LIFE TO EAGLE SEMINAR

Saturday, 26 September 2020

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

This is a Virtual Seminar

#### Topics Include:

Service project selection/approval  
Details of the on-line Project Workbook  
Scouts with special needs

Eagle Scout Rank application  
Eagle Board of Review  
Eagle Court of Honor

**HIGHLIGHT: Panel discussion featuring recent Eagle Scouts**

**Registration applications must be received by September 21, 2020.**

Registrations are requested to ensure everyone receives the Zoom link.

On-line registration can be made at <https://site.corsizio.com/c/5f15a4bfef8dcf79848baf0e>

Any questions contact Jack Lundin at 703-938-0369.

#### 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



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***The BEST Scout Units have NYLT Trained youth supported by Wood Badge trained adults***

Next Wood Badge Adult course: Sep 18-20 & Oct 17-18, 2020

Both weekends must be attended

Camp William B. Snyder

**Cost:** \$300.00 (scholarships available)

Find out more at: <https://www.ncacbsa.org/wood-badge/>





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**From:** [CHURCHILL Updates](#)



## UPDATE: MOVING SOME CHURCHILL RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARD

August 12, 2020

As part of the ongoing process to identify how to optimize the Boy Scouts of America for success in the future, the National Executive Committee (NEC) recently asked the National Management Team to facilitate the evaluation of **the 26 primary proposed recommendations that resulted from the Churchill Project**. In addition to receiving survey input from Scouting stakeholders, the Management Team also evaluated inputs from individual Action Teams, whose work helped explain the efforts that would be needed to implement each recommendation should it be approved by the NEC to move forward.

Late last week, the National Executive Committee reviewed and agreed with the recommendations of the Management Team to move forward with 15 of the 26 proposed actions, which can be characterized by the following priorities.



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- **Keeping Youth Safety at the Forefront** – Keeping youth in our programs safe is a priority, and recommendations that seek to bolster the processes surrounding youth safety, including onboarding, incident reporting and easy-to-navigate resources, are moving forward so that we can continue evolving and improving upon our youth safety programs that experts agree are some of the strongest among youth-serving organizations.
- **Engaging and Empowering Volunteers** – Volunteers continue to be vital in our ability to deliver an engaging and rewarding Scouting program in communities throughout our organization. Recommendations that help engage and empower more volunteers to deliver and support Scouting locally will move forward, which will be vital to our Movement's sustainability since financial challenges prevent us from being able to meet demands with professional staff alone.
- **Streamlining to Enable Local Council Success** – In addition to moving forward with recommendations focused at streamlining our structure, events and processes, we will also move forward with the recommendation to focus the services that the national organization provides to what local councils need most and cannot effectively or efficiently handle alone so that councils can focus on bringing Scouting to youth, families and communities with the support of local volunteers.

Recommendations that were paused for possible consideration of implementation in the future, include:

- Establishing a fee-based structure for councils in place of the National BSA collecting membership fees from councils, and
- Creating a non-traditional membership category for families that is focused on experiences, rather than advancement.

The Management Team will be reviewing those two recommendations while they are on pause for how they may be beneficial to the Movement in the future.

The NEC also agreed that the following three recommendations will not be considered at this time:

- Combining Sea Scouting into Exploring,
- Ending all youth programs at the age of 18, and
- Sunsetting the Learning for Life curriculum

Although we are not moving forward with these recommendations, we will continue the dialog that prompted the recommendations to ensure that we continue to benefit as a Movement from the evaluation and analysis conducted by the Churchill teams that studied those areas.

We continue to extend our gratitude to the teams of volunteers and professionals that worked hard to evaluate the important areas of the Churchill Project, an important initiative that engaged local, regional and national volunteers and professionals to create the catalyst for positive changes that will propel the



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BSA forward. These steps chart a continuous improvement process for the organization that will benefit youth, families, communities, and the entire Movement.

As the namesake of the project, we turn to Winston Churchill in closing,

"There is no time for ease and comfort. It is time to dare and endure."

Let us all embrace this thought as we forge ahead, knowing that change is never easy, but let us be bold and daring in our decisions both locally and nationally to ensure we emerge from this challenging time poised to serve even more young people in this great Movement we call Scouting.

Please check out SCOUTINGWIRE at [CHURCHILL Updates](#)



# SCOUTINGWIRE



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Summer 2020

# THE COMMISSIONER

A PUBLICATION FOR COMMISSIONERS AND PROFESSIONALS

[www.scouting.org/commissioners](http://www.scouting.org/commissioners)



## Our Moment in Time

The year was 1935. The Boy Scouts of America was building its first-ever National Scout Jamboree site in Washington, D.C. It was, by all indications, going to be an epic event. But a "serious epidemic of infantile paralysis" — polio — had other plans. The Jamboree was postponed. On the occasion, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had been scheduled to host an event on the White House lawn, took to the radio waves to send a message of resolve and courage to Scouts around the country. Much of the nation listened on their tabletop radio. His message recognized the resilient nature of Scouting:

*When you go out into life, you have come to understand that the individual in your community who always says, "I can't" or "I won't" or "I don't," the individual who, by inaction or by opposition, slows up honest, practical, far-seeing community effort, is the fellow who is holding back civilization. ... We need more Scouts. The more, the better.*

By now, you know the rest of the story. The polio epidemic was defeated. The first BSA National Jamboree was held in 1937, with a sea of tents in the shadow of the Washington Monument. President Roosevelt was back and greeted the Scouts, praising Scouting as a great source of training in the virtues of good citizenship. The first National Jamboree was a spectacular success, laying the foundation for many to follow, and it demonstrated to the nation the resilience and resolve of Scouting. Scouting was here to stay.

We are living our own moment in time 85 years later. Scouting is being challenged on multiple fronts. We once again have the opportunity to demonstrate to the nation our strength, resilience and resolve as we work together to continue the mission of Scouting.

In times such as these, it is easy to feel frustrated. The enormity of the challenge is daunting. I find strength in the knowledge that the mission of Scouting is to change lives for the better. We develop character and leadership attributes one Scout at a time. I find strength in the ingenuity and passion of our local volunteers, professionals and parents, who work every day in the midst of a pandemic to ensure the delivery of the promise of Scouting.

In this time, what is the clarion call for how we support Scouting? We will deliver the future of Scouting one small step at a time, all in the community where you live. Scouting happens in your local community. Our focus should be on completing the small steps that will support the effective delivery of Scouting in our councils and units. In that regard, we know that commissioners own retention. If we can focus on



Scott Sorrells  
National Commissioner

one thing right now, I urge you to reach out and check on your local Scout leaders and professionals, and build on your relationship of trust and confidence. We should virtually embrace them and offer support as we all work together to keep Scouts engaged.

Fall is a time to recruit new Scouts, and we no doubt have to think differently. On Sept. 12, take part in the BSA Family Fun Fest, our signature online Cub recruiting event for Scout and non-Scout families. Scouting Wire is a great source of new and innovative membership resources. Our Facebook Commissioner Service site is another great source. Collaborate with your local professionals and volunteers to figure out how to best deliver Scouting in your community.

Two years from now, which will be 85 years after the first BSA National Jamboree, I am confident that we will look around, reflect on this most unusual journey and be proud of how we responded in our moment in time.

A heartfelt note of thanks for our volunteers and professionals, local and national, all working as one team and one movement. As a Scouting family, we understand in our soul the magic of the Scouting movement and our ability to impact the future. Thank you for playing your part today, one small step at a time.

Thanks for all you do for Scouting,

Scott Sorrells  
National Commissioner



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## **There is still time to renew your Lodge Membership!**

To be a member of Amangamek-Wipit Lodge and the Order of the Arrow, you must be a registered Scout or Scouter and pay lodge dues of \$16 annually. Membership ensures your invitation to all chapter/lodge events and includes a subscription to the quarterly *Lodge Shark's Tooth* newsletter, which will be imprinted with your OA ID number and BSA ID number.



### **Amangamek-Wipit Lodge**

#### **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 2020, annual dues will be \$14 until March 31 when they increase to \$16 on April 1 (no fooling!).

Included in the registration is the optional opportunity to make a campership donation to help youth OA members to attend camp and other lodge approved events.

If you are transferring from another lodge, please visit the Membership Dues and Transfers page on the lodge website (<https://www.ncacbsa.org/program/order-of-the-arrow/membership-dues-transfers/>) and complete the [Membership Transfer Form](#) to pay your dues.

**Dues Link: [2020 Wipit 470 Dues Payment Link](#)**

**Membership Transfers and Membership Reactivation: [Membership Info](#)**

Membership questions can be emailed to: [membership@wipit470.org](mailto:membership@wipit470.org)



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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:

- **Parktakes** (select "Scouts" from the Category of Activity)
- **MeritBadge.Info** – Various MB Days throughout the country
- **Fly Fishing Merit Badge Program**, Northern Virginia

### **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 will need to submit the following information to the [Merit Badge Dean](#):

- [Adult Application](#) (Page 3 - fill in form, answer questions on right side, initial and sign. No other signatures needed),
- [Additional Disclosures & Background Check Authorization](#) (Page 9),
- [Merit Badge Counselor Information Sheet](#), and
- [Current YPT Certification](#) (Login, Menu, My Dashboard, Completions).

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

Margee Egan at [margee.egan@gmail.com](mailto:margee.egan@gmail.com)



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## George Mason Order of The Arrow – 2020 Ordeal Initiation

At this time the Fall 2020 Area Initiation will be Oct 2-3 (Friday/Saturday), 2020 at Camp Snyder. Colonial, Patriot, George Mason, Old Dominion and Chain Bridge OA Chapters will come together to hold the Virginia Central Area initiation. There will be a maximum online registration of 15 candidates for each of the four chapters.

The George Mason Chapter already sent out an email sends out a monthly newsletter with more OA news. Look for your newsletter.

Here are the OA 2020 Initiation Weekend (Ordeal/Brotherhood) dates:

- Oct 2-3, 2020 Fall Virginia Central Area Ordeal at Snyder, Haymarket, VA

Here is the OA 2021 Initiation Weekend (Ordeal/Brotherhood) date:

- April 30, May 1-2, 2021 Spring GM/Patriot Chapter Ordeal at Snyder, Haymarket, VA

### 2020 Lodge Events

- September 19, 2020 Fall Fellowship Service Day (No Camping overnight), Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA



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**Question: What can your unit youth do during the summer break, besides attending summer camp?**

**They can work on their Religious Emblem Program**

**and earn a medal and a knot they can wear on their uniform**

**both as a youth and as an adult!**

Here is more information that we strongly urge you to share with your units youth!

[https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-879\\_WB.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-879_WB.pdf)

## *Religious Emblems Programs*

**Available to Members of the Boy Scouts of America**

A Scout is reverent. He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion.

To encourage members to grow stronger in their faith, religious groups have developed the following religious emblems programs. The Boy Scouts of America has approved of these programs and allows the emblems to be worn on the official uniform. The various religious groups administer the programs. Check with your local council service center or contact the religious committee to obtain the curriculum information.

Materials with a Boy Scouts of America supply number are available from your local council service center or from the BSA National Distribution Center toll-free at 800-323-0732.

S = Student material    C = Counselor material    M = Adult mentor material

<sup>1</sup>The Venturing TRUST Award is part of the Venturing awards program. This youth award is not part of the BSA religious emblems programs. For additional information, refer to the TRUST Award Handbook, available from your local council service centers or the BSA National Distribution Center.

**For additional information about religious emblems, please contact your religious organization.**

### **How Do We Get Started on These Programs?**

1. Youth members or their parents obtain the specific information for their religious emblems.
2. Parents review the program guidelines.
3. Families talk with their religious leaders or emblem counselors and show them the requirements before beginning the program.
4. The youth member completes the requirements and the family obtains the proper signatures and orders the emblem.

### **Interested in making a presentation on the religious emblems?**

Promotional resources (including a DVD and scripts) are available from the BSA ([www.scouting.org/awards/religious-awards/](http://www.scouting.org/awards/religious-awards/)) and P.R.A.Y. ([www.praypub.org](http://www.praypub.org)).





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**Anglican Catholic Church**  
 Ad te Domine, Servus Dei, The Order of St. Michael

**Armenian Church of America (Eastern Diocese)**  
 St. Gregory, Ararat

**Armenian Apostolic Church of America**  
 Saint Mesrob

**Buddhist**  
 Metta, Sangha, Bodhi

**Baha'i**  
 Unity of Mankind, Unity of Mankind, Unity of Mankind, Unity of Mankind

**Eastern Orthodox**  
 Saint George, Alpha Omega, Chi Rho, Prophet Elias

**African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.)**  
 God and Me, God and Family, God and Church, God and Life, God and Service

**Anglican Church in North America**  
 God and Me, God and Family, God and Church, God and Life, St. George Cross

**Baptist**  
 God and Me, God and Family, God and Church, God and Life, Good Shepherd

**Churches of Christ**  
 Loving Servant, Joyful Servant, Good Servant, Giving Servant, Faithful Servant

**Church of Christ, Scientist (Christian Scientist)**  
 God and Country, God and Country

**Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
 God and Me, God and Family, God and Church, God and Life, God and Service

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**  
 On My Honor Youth, On My Honor Adult

**Community of Christ**  
 Light of the World, Path of the Disciple, Exploring Community Together, International Youth Service



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**General Church of the New Jerusalem**  
Open Word

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**Hindu**  
Dharma

Karma

---

**Islamic**  
Bismillah

In the Name of God

Allaho Akber

---

**Jain**  
Live Help Live—Stage I

Live Help Live—Stage II

Live Help Live—Stage III

Live Help Live—Stage IV

Live and Help Live—Gold

Live and Help Live—Silver

Live and Help Live—White

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**Meher Baba**  
Love for God

Compassionate Father

**Episcopal**  
God and Me

God and Family

God and Church

God and Life

Saint George

---

**Jewish**  
Maccabee

Aleph

Ner Tamid

Etz Chaim

Shofar

---

**Lutheran**  
God and Me

God and Family

God and Church

God and Life

Servant of Youth

Lamb

---

**Moravian**  
God and Country

The Order of David Zeisberger

---

**Nazarene**  
God and Me

God and Family

God and Church

God and Life

God and Service

---

**Polish National Catholic Church**  
Love of God

God and Country

Bishop Thaddeus F. Zielinski

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**Presbyterian Church in America**  
God and Me

God and Family

God and Church

God and Life

God and Service



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## Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



## Friends Committee on Scouting (Quakers)



## Unitarian Universalist



## Unity Churches



## Zoroastrian



## Protestant/United Church of Christ/Community Churches



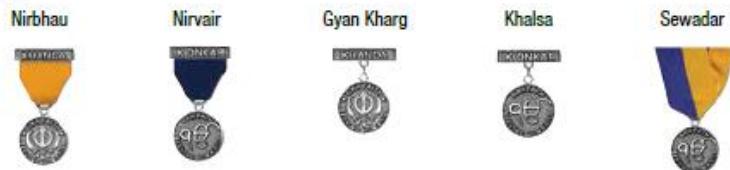
## Roman Catholic/Eastern Catholic



## Salvation Army



## Sikh



## United Methodist



## United Pentecostal Church International





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## Printing Unit Charter Forms and BSA ID cards for youth/adults

Some units are asking questions on how to obtain / print materials such as BSA id Cards and Unit Charters. BSA is no longer printing and mailing these materials to the units. BSA has now made it possible for units to do this task themselves. The following are how-to guides to download and print the BSA ID cards and Unit Charters:

- How to download BSA Ids (YouTube Video):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOUCBoamgs0>

- How to downloads and print Unit Charters:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/0778a6dc201/ee304af2-9c84-4143-a42d-c1798715ca01.pdf>



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## Processing Training Awards, Unit Leader Key Awards, and other awards

Trained leaders have the knowledge and self-confidence to provide young people with a quality program. There are two important parts of BSA's Leadership Training Recognition plan: to honor demonstrated performance and tenure of trained leaders in all areas of the Scouting program involving units and to encourage others to become trained.

Trained leaders may apply for the knot appropriate to their program level by filling out the Progress Record for that award. **The application should be put in the awards box at Roundtable or given to your Unit Commissioner** to be reviewed by the district training committee for approval. You do not need to get a district signature before dropping off the form. The forms will be signed after a review is completed. All forms ask if training has been completed. We do review the training records. You can review your training records at [www.my.scouting.org](http://www.my.scouting.org)

If your training records are not updated, please complete the following excel spreadsheet:  
<http://tinyurl.com/NCACBSATraining>

and submit it to our Training Records, Roy DeLauder at [eaglescout.roy@cox.net](mailto:eaglescout.roy@cox.net) Usually one reason why training records are not showing up is because the individual has not linked their BSA Member Number to their my.scouting.org account. It is important that this is done so that we can show that our leaders are actually trained. Another error is not obtaining all the signatures required at the unit level. If the form asks for both the unit leader and the committee chairs signatures, then we need both signatures.

**Use the current forms (links to current forms are listed below).**

### TRAINING AWARD FORMS

Below is a listing of the award forms that should be used and the link to the current document.



#### Unit Leader Award of Merit Nomination Form

(Cubmaster, Scoutmaster, or Advisor). Don't forget to include the statement by the unit committee chair on behalf of the unit committee attesting to the nominee's performance as unit leader. For Scoutmaster nominations, also attach a statement by the troop's senior patrol leader. For crew Advisor nominations, also attach a statement by the crew president.

[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-003\\_WB.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-003_WB.pdf)



#### Den Leader Training Award – Adults

that serve as Cub Scout Den Leaders may earn this knot by completing the required tenure, training, and performance for the award. Progress Record (Tiger, Wolf, Bear, or Webelos den leader)

[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/511-052\\_WB.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/511-052_WB.pdf)



#### Scouter's Training Award—Adults that serve as Leaders in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturing may earn this knot

by completing the position-appropriate required tenure, training, and performance for the award.

#### Scouter's Training Award for Cub Scouting—Progress Record

[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/511-057\\_WB.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/511-057_WB.pdf)

#### Scouter's Training Award for Boy Scouting – Progress Record

[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/511-058\\_WB.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/511-058_WB.pdf)

#### Venturing Training Award – Progress Record

[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/511-060\\_WB.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/511-060_WB.pdf)

#### District Committee Scouter's Training Award – Progress Record

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/districtcommscouterstrainingawd.pdf>



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**Scouter’s Key Award**—Adults that serve as Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, District Committee members, and Venturing

Advisors may earn this knot by completing the required tenure, training, and performance for the award.

### Cubmaster’s Key Progress Record

[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/511-053\\_WB.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/511-053_WB.pdf)

### Scoutmaster’s Key Progress Record

[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/511-054\\_WB.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/511-054_WB.pdf)

### Advisor’s Key Progress Record

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/511-WB.pdf>

### District Committee Key Progress Record

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/districtcommitteekey.pdf>

### Scouting Forms

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Media/forms.aspx>

### National Summertime Pack Award

[http://www.scouting.org/filestore/CubScoutMeetingGuide/PDF/33748\\_WB.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/CubScoutMeetingGuide/PDF/33748_WB.pdf)



### COMMISSIONER AWARD FORMS

Below is a listing of the award forms that should be used and the link to the current document. These are managed by the District Commissioner staff.

### The



**Arrowhead Honor** recognizes proficiency in contemporary tools and techniques commissioners use to provide effective unit service.

**ELIGIBILITY:** ALL COMMISSIONERS

- [Click here](#) for Unit Commissioner.
- [Click here](#) for Assistant Roundtable Commissioner.
- [Click here](#) for Roundtable Commissioner.
- [Click here](#) for Assistant District Commissioner.



**The Commissioner’s Key** encourages and recognizes continuing training, performance, and tenure by commissioners.

**ELIGIBILITY:** ALL COMMISSIONERS

[Click here](#) for requirements and progress records.



### The Doctorate of Commissioner Science Knot Award

recognizes completion of a standardized training program including a thesis or project, the awarding of the Doctorate of Commissioner Science from a College of Commissioner Science, and the achievement of performance objectives to improve unit service.

**ELIGIBILITY:** ALL COMMISSIONERS

[Click here](#) for requirements and progress record.



### The Commissioner Award of Excellence in Unit Service

is awarded to a commissioner who provides exemplary unit service, focusing on unit performance as measured in Journey to Excellence and through the use of the current Boy Scouts of America Unit Service Plan and Commissioner Tools.

**ELIGIBILITY:** ALL COMMISSIONERS PROVIDING DIRECT SERVICE TO UNITS

[Click here](#) for requirements and progress record.



### The Distinguished Commissioner Service Award

is the highest recognition that can be given to a commissioner who has consistently engaged in distinguished and exceptional commissioner service resulting in significant, positive impact to youth, units, and a district and/or council.

**CLASSIFICATION:** NOMINATION

**ELIGIBILITY:** ALL COMMISSIONERS

[Click here](#) for requirements.

[Click here](#) for nomination form.