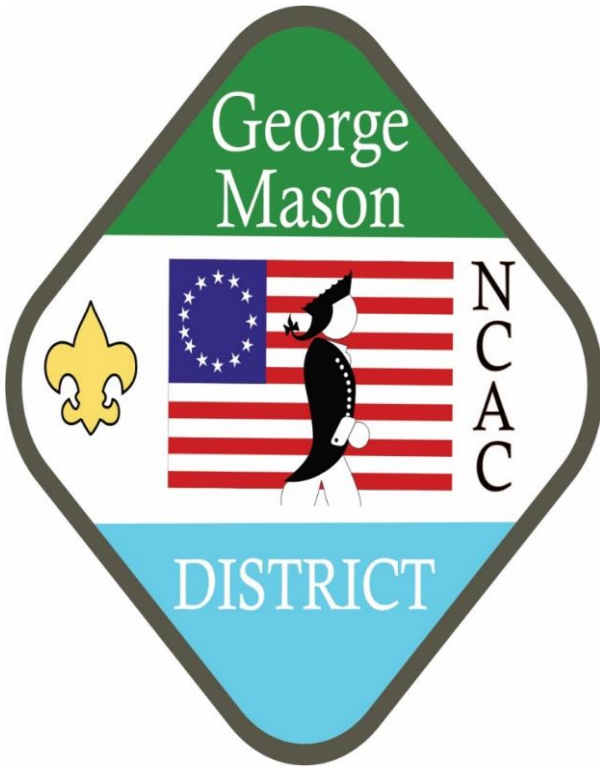




# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

## MARCH/APRIL 2021

*"Life without adventure would be deadly dull" Baden-Powell*



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 Thurs. 3/11/2021 – Virtual:  
Roundtable Meeting at 7:30 pm

Zoom Meeting: Click [here](#).

One tap mobile: +13017158592,,82230156216#,,,,\*540308#

#### USEFUL LINKS:

[NCAC Council Website](#)

[National BSA](#)

[National Order of the Arrow](#)

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



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## 2021 Journey to Excellence forms

Here are 2021 JTE Workbooks which you can manipulate - last page can be printed, signed and turned in (email is OK):

2021 Tracking Workbooks are not quite ready – we will post once National has them ready

Here is the 2021 PDF forms – these will need to be filled in and submitted to your Unit Commissioner by

or before December 1, 2021

## 2021 Unit Scorecards

<https://www.scouting.org/awards/journey-to-excellence/unit/>

### 2021 JTE Unit Scorecards

- **Pack Scorecard**
- **Troop Scorecard**
- **Crew Scorecard**
- **Post Scorecard**

=====



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## MARCH/APRIL 2021

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### Calendar of Events – Links included if available

03/09/2021 - Commissioner's Meeting, 7:30pm (Virtual)

03/11/2021 - Roundtable, 7:30pm (Virtual)

03/13/2021 - **Den Chief Training Conference** (Virtual)

03/13-14/2021 – NCAC Commissioner College (Virtual) [CCS 2021 registration site](#).

03/17/2021 – Special Council-Wide Roundtable hosted by the NCAC ACC Roundtable Team with Cub Scout/Scouts BSA program breakout sessions 7:30pm-9:00pm [Registration Link](#)

03/20/2021 - District Pinewood Derby (Virtual) [GM Pinewood Derby](#)

03/31/2021 - District Committee, 7:30pm (Virtual)

04/11-14/2021 - District Merit Badge Days (Virtual) [GM Merit Badge Registration](#)

04/08/2021 - District Court of Honor/Roundtable, 7:00pm (Virtual)

04/10-24/2021 George Mason Merit Badge Event (Virtual)

04/13/2021 - Commissioner's Meeting, 7:30pm (Virtual)

04/17/2021 – USA Archery Level 1 Instructor Training, Frederick, MD – training details on page further back in this issue

04/17-18/2021 – USA Archery Level 2 Instructor Training, Frederick, MD – training details on page further back in this issue

04/17-18/2021 – Climbing Level I Instructor Training – Sugarloaf Mtn, MD - training details on page further back in this issue

04/24/2021 - Challenging Outdoor Fun-Filled Family Experiences (a.l.a., “Games w/ a Purpose - Take a COFFEE break) - COPE & Climbing activities offered at Camp Snyder

04/28/2021 - District Committee, 7:30pm (Virtual)

04/30/2021 - 05/02/2021 – **Wood Badge 2021**, Camp Snyder, Haymarket VA

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

04/30/2021 - 05/02/2021 - GMD/Patriot Chapter OA Ordeal

04/2021 - Eagle Recognition Dinner



# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

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

05/30/2021 - [Flags-In](#), National Memorial Park, Falls Church, VA

05/22/2021 - Challenging Outdoor Fun-Filled Family Experiences (a.l.a., "Games w/ a Purpose - Take a COFFEE break) - COPE & Climbing activities offered at Camp Snyder

07/18-24/2021 NCAC Camp Snyder Merit Badge Week - [Snyder Merit Badge Registration](#)

08/12/2021 – Charter Renewal planning starts with the August Roundtable

10/1/2021 – Charter Renewal system open

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

12/1/2021 - Annual Unit Charter Agreement Form submitted to Unit Commissioner

12/1/2021 – 2021 Charter Renewal packages submitted to Unit Commissioner

12/1/2021 – 2021 Journey to Excellence (JTE) form submitted to Unit Commissioner

12/31/2021 – Unit Charter expire



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### **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN**

The 2021 NCAC College of Commissioner Service will be held as a virtual (online) college Saturday, March 13 and Sunday March 14, 2021. Registration opened on February 16, 2021 for NCAC and will open February 23, 2021 for out of NCAC participants.

### **2021 NCAC COMMISSIONER COLLEGE**

Virtual College

March 13 – 14, 2021

Keynote speaker:  
BSA CEO and President Roger Mosby

OPEN TO EVERYONE INTERESTED IN LEARNING HOW TO HELP UNITS BETTER SERVE  
MORE YOUTH THROUGH SCOUTING

[CCS 2021 Catalog](#)

Please review the CCS 2021 Catalog and then visit the [CCS 2021 registration site](#).



# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

## MARCH/APRIL 2021

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### NCAC Shooting Sports Committee Training Schedule

Offered by/at Arlington-Fairfax Chapter of the Izaak Walton League ("IWLA") located in Centerville, Va.

<https://wp.arlingtonfairfax-iwla.org/nra-courses/>

	Month	Day (s)	Start Time	End Time	Course	Chief Instructor	Minimum Course Length	Course Fee	Max Class Size
1	January	16th 17th	0800 0800	1700 1600	NRA Level 1 Pistol Coach School		16 Hours	\$ 200	10
2	January	22nd	0800	1700	NRA Basic CCW Course - RESTRICTED TO INSTRUCTOR CANDIDATES	Seaberg	8 Hours	N/A	12
3	January	23rd 24th	0800	1700	NRA CCW Instructor Course	Seaberg	8 Hours	\$ 150	12
4	January	31st	0800	1200	Instructor Development Day		4 Hours	N/A	16
5	February	7th	0800	1700	NRA Basic RSO Course		9 Hours	\$ 75	12
6	February	20th	0800	1200	NRA Refuse to be a Victim Seminar		4 Hours	\$ 100	12
7	February	20th	1200	2000	NRA Refuse to be a Victim Instructor Workshop		6 Hours	\$ 100	10
8	March	20th	0900	1900	NRA Basics of Pistol Shooting Course		9 Hours	\$ 50	12
9	March	29th 30th	0800 0800	1600 1600	NRA Shotgun Camp	Sipes	2 Days	\$ 200	22
10	April	10th	0800	1900	NRA Pers Protect Inside the Home (PPITH) Course		10 Hours	\$ 75	12
11	April	24th	0800	1800	NRA Basics of Shotgun Shooting Course		10 Hours	\$ 50	12
12	May	8th 9th	0800 0800	1600 1200	NRA Personal Protection Outside the Home (PPOTH) Course		12 Hours	\$ 100	12
13	May	22nd	0900	1600	NRA Women on Target (WOT)	Meara	~7 Hours	\$ 80	80
14	May	30th	0800	1200	Instructor Development Day		4 Hours	N/A	16
15	June	13th	0900	1600	Crush'n Clays for Kids	Brino	~8 Hours	N/A	80
16	June	19th	0900	1900	NRA Basics of Pistol Shooting Course		9 Hours	\$ 50	12
17	June	27th	0800	1800	NRA Basics of Shotgun Shooting Course		10 Hours	\$ 50	12
18	July	24th 25th	0900 0800	1600 1200	NRA Defensive Pistol Module		9 Hours	\$ 75	12
19	July	31st	0800	1700	NRA Metallic Cartridge Reloading Course		8 Hours	\$ 75	12
20	August	21st 22nd	0800 0800	1600 1200	NRA Basic CCW Course		10 Hours	\$ 125	12
21	August	28th	0900	1900	NRA Basics of Pistol Shooting Course		9 Hours	\$ 50	12
22	August	29th	0800	1200	Instructor Development Day		4 Hours	N/A	16
23	September	12th	1200	1600	NRA Basic Shotgun Instructor Pre-Qualification		4 Hours	N/A	12
24	September	17th	0900	1600	NRA Basic Instructor Training (BIT)		6 Hours	N/A	12
25	September	18th 19th	0800 0800	1700 1200	NRA Basic Shotgun Instructor		12 Hours	\$ 150	12
26	September	25th 26th	0900 0800	1600 1200	NRA Defensive Pistol Module		9 Hours	\$ 75	12
27	October	9th 10th	0800 0800	1600 1200	NRA Basic CCW Course		10 Hours	\$ 125	12
28	October	24th	0800	1800	NRA Basics of Shotgun Shooting Course		10 Hours	\$ 50	12
29	October	31st	0800	1200	Instructor Development Day		4 Hours	N/A	16
30	November	13th	0800	1700	Shotgun Shell Reloading Course		8 Hours	\$ 75	12
31	November	13th	1800	2000	2022 Education and Training Program Planning Meeting	Sills	2 Hours	\$ -	N/A
32	November	21st	0800	1200	NRA Refuse to be a Victim Seminar		4 Hours	\$ 25	12
33	November	21st	1200	2000	NRA Refuse to be a Victim Instructor Workshop		8 Hours	\$ 100	10
34	November	27th 28th	0800 0800	1600 1600	NRA Rifle Coach School		16 Hours	\$ 200	12
35	December	5th	0800	1700	NRA Basic RSO course		9 Hours	\$ 75	12

*"You know you're a scout when...you can cater better for 20 than 2 and you know how many slices are in a loaf of bread."*



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## Climbing Level I Instructor Training April 17 & 18 2021

Learn how to help Scouts climb on nearby natural rock. The NCAC Climbing Committee will offer April 2021 Climbing Level I Instructor training on Saturday, 4/17 and Sunday, 4/18 at the Devil's Kitchen climbing area on Maryland's [Sugarloaf Mountain](#). We will meet each day at 8:15 am near the East View Parking Area and conclude by 4:30 pm. Details are available in our [logistics memo](#).

- **Dates:** Saturday, 4/17/2021 and Sunday, 4/18/2021
- **Fee:** \$40.
- **Accommodations and Food:** No camping is allowed on Sugarloaf Mountain. No meals will be provided.
- **Location:** Sugarloaf Mountain, Devil's Kitchen climbing area. Devil's Kitchen is a line of cliffs parallel to and a short walk north from the road between Sugarloaf Mountain's [East View Parking Area](#) and [West View Parking Area](#). We will meet at the [parking spaces](#) directly opposite the "Rock Climbing at Your Own Risk" sign just west of the East View Parking Area. Approximate meeting spot GPS coordinates are [39.26021, -77.39142](#).
- **Course Duration:** 26.5 hours of online, in-class and hands-on instruction.

**Registration:** Contact the Course Director at [ncac.climbing@gmail.com](mailto:ncac.climbing@gmail.com) to register for the event. Prior to field training and assessment all participants must deliver current health and consent forms and new trainees must submit the fee.



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## USA ARCHERY LEVEL 1 & 2 INSTRUCTOR TRAINING SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 17 & 18, 2021 WALKERSVILLE WATERSHED, FREDERICK, MD

The Level 1 archery instructor course is for adults and youth 16 years of age or older\*. It is a one-day (Saturday 4/17 only) course covering how to shoot archery and how to run a range safely. This course requires that you demonstrate how to do a new archer safety briefing and pass a written exam in order to obtain the certification. The level 1 course content includes range safety, range setup, basic equipment setup and repair, and how to teach the basic steps of shooting. Those who successfully complete the Level 1 course will be able to:

- Run a BSA archery range; Run a Cub Scout archery range at the District or Council level;
- Teach the BSA Cub Scout Archery Range Officer course, certifying other adult Scouters to run a Cub Scout archery range. i.e., Day Camp, at the District or Council level; and
- Counsel archery merit badge for Boy Scouts.

The Level 2 archery instructor course is a full two-day (4/17 & 4/18) course designed for adults 18 years of age or older who work with a more established archery program such as J.O.A.D., A.S.A.P., college clubs and local clubs with a strong beginner component. The Level 2 course students MUST attend both days as they will help instruct the Level 1. Upon completion, the Level 2 instructors can teach and certify Level 1 archers. The Level 2 course content includes basic shooting steps, introduce intermediate shooting steps, safety, range setup, equipment setup and repair, fitting equipment to an archer, how to teach archery and how to teach a Level 1 instructor course. **YOU DO NOT ALREADY HAVE TO HAVE COMPLETED THE LEVEL 1 TO REGISTER FOR THE LEVEL 2.** To be certified as a USA Level 2 archery instructor, you **must** have:

- USA Archery or NFAA membership (you must bring your membership card with you to the course);
- Successful background screen (can be completed later); and
- Completion of all segments of the USA Archery SafeSport Program (can be completed later).

Courses will start promptly at 8 a.m. and will last 8-hours. The cost of the **Level 1 course is \$80.00**, and the **Level 2 course is \$160.00** payable by mail. Your course fee includes all course materials and equipment. Orange juice, coffee, and donuts will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own archery equipment for use during the class. For those who do not own their own archery equipment, it will be provided.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR THESE COURSES IS APRIL 1.** SIGN UP EARLY AS SPACE IS LIMITED AND THERE IS NO GUARANTEE YOU WILL GET INTO THE CLASS EVEN IF YOU SUBMIT A REGISTRATION BY THE DEADLINE. Once registered, you will receive an email confirmation with directions to the range, instructions on where to meet and what to bring. This course is weather permitting so dress accordingly. In case of inclement weather, you will be notified 24 hours ahead of time of any cancellation. For questions, please contact Mike Parrish at mparrish19@yahoo.com. **YOU MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED!!!!**

\* USA Archery permits 16-year-old level 1 instructors but BSA requires archery range instructors be at least 18 years of age.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send registration and Level 1 or Level 2 fee to: **Mike Parrish, 10093 Heron Court, New Market, MD 21774**

**Would you like to support a Pack or Troop in learning Archery or becoming an Archery Merit Badge Counselor? This is the course to take!**





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George Mason District congratulates our own Rus Pittman in being recognized for his great work in Scouting by receiving the Silver Beaver Award and part of the Class of 2021! Congratulate Rus when you see him!!

### [Congratulations to the 2021 Silver Beaver Class!](#)

The Silver Beaver is the highest award presented by the council for volunteer service. Recipients of this award are adult leaders who have made an impact on the lives of youth both in and out of Scouting. They have given hard work, self-sacrifice, dedication, and many years of service to our community. Congratulations to all of this year's recipients and class honoree and former NCAC Council President James Smith!

**Save the date for our remote Court of Honor on May 15, 2021!**



# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

## MARCH/APRIL 2021

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL

# LET'S GET CAMPING: PLANNING FOR SUMMER 2021

**MARCH 4 - CAMP & COVID**

**MARCH 11 - SCOUTS BSA CAMPING OPTIONS**

**MARCH 18 - CUB SCOUTS GO TO CAMP**

**MARCH 25 - HIGH ADVENTURE AT SUMMER CAMP**

### Get Ready for Camp: Goshen Webinars

While we are still monitoring the situation to ensure we can keep our Scouts safe, the current plan is to offer a traditional in-person program at both Goshen and Snyder this summer. To help your Scouting families get ready for camp, we are hosting a series of FOUR webinars, so join us every Thursday in March at 6pm and the campstaff will answer all your summer camp questions!

- March 4: Camp & COVID
- March 11: Scouts BSA Camping Options
- March 18: Cub Scouts Go To Camp
- March 25: High Adventure at Summer Camp

[LEARN MORE](#)

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Does your unit want to go camping but don't know where???

Check out this list of pre-approved camping locations:

<https://wipit470.org/uploads/3/5/5/0/35506853/where-to-go-camping-guide.pdf>



# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

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SIGN UP **NOW** FOR CAMP SNYDER

SCOUTS BSA MERIT BADGE WEEK!

Join us at Camp Snyder for the **FIRST EVER MERIT BADGE** week for Scouts BSA for the week July 18 – 24, 2021!

There are two ways to participate: 1) individual Scouts or Units can stay at Camp Snyder all week and camp overnight or 2) be a day-only participant while staying overnight at home.

We will offer a wide range of **Trail-to-Eagle** and **Outdoor Merit Badges** (like Cooking, Swimming, Soil and Water Conservation, First Aid, Archery, Rifle Shooting, Geocaching and more) and **Specialty Merit Badges** (like Woodworking, Aviation, Search and Rescue, Photography, Weather, Archeology and more). Classes will be small (10 scouts maximum) and up to **50 Merit Badges** will be offered.

The entire program, to include dining, camping, merit badge classes and fun activities (like the swimming pool, climbing tower, air rifles, craftwork and campfires), will be conducted using strict COVID-19 virus precautions.

Sign up now at <https://www.gotosnyder.org/summer-camp/specialty-week/> to **RESERVE YOUR PLACE**, since the number of participants will be **LIMITED** to 100 campers and 50 day-only participants. Units can sign up one adult leader for **FREE** for every 5 paying Scouts. Sign-up for specific Merit Badges classes will be later, during Spring 2021 once the class schedule is finalized.





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## MARCH/APRIL 2021

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## George Mason Pack 152 Pinewood Derby





**GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS**  
**MARCH/APRIL 2021**  
*"Life without adventure would be deady dull" Baden-Powell*



**Virginia Bird and Wildlife Trail (VBWT)**

Check out this online guide for observing birds and wildlife from over 600 viewing sites along 65 trail loops within the Old Dominion.

With 400 species of birds, 150 species of mammals, 150 species of amphibians and reptiles, 250 species of fish, plus hundreds of butterfly, dragonfly, and other invertebrate species, you'll soon see why Virginia is a premier destination for birding and wildlife viewing.

Use the interactive maps and menus at [Find Wildlife: Viewing](#) to search for viewing sites near you or by city/county, search for sites with specific birds and wildlife of interest, or get driving directions to a site from your current location. Or, you can search by region (Coastal, Piedmont, Mountain) from here: <https://dwr.virginia.gov/VBWT/>

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**Kids 'N Fishing Photo Contest**

Prepare now for capturing the joy of fishing with kids this year by considering an entry into Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources' (DWR) Kids 'N Fishing Photo Contest.

The deadline for submissions is **3 Sep 2021**.

For information on the contest and prizes, go to this link. <https://dwr.virginia.gov/kidsnfishing/>

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**A Few Black Bear Facts**

- Female bears are called sows, male bears are called boars
- Cubs are born in January or early February
- Cubs are born nearly hairless and weigh 6-12 ounces
- Anywhere from 1-4 cubs are born at a time
- The sow will care for the cubs for about 1.5 years
- Feeding bears is illegal in Virginia

To learn more about black bears check out these web sites:

<https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear/> and <https://bearwise.org/>

*"You know you're a scout when...you can cater better for 20 than 2 and you know how many slices are in a loaf of bread."*



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## MARCH/APRIL 2021

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Here is a special award that Scout's can earn. It requires the Scoutmaster to fill out this two page form and submit it to the Scout Shop to obtain the special patch.



### Application for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Environmental Protection Agency Award Program Term – January 1 to December 31, 2021

The Environmental Protection Agency, as part of a public awareness campaign to celebrate its first 50 years, has partnered with the Boy Scouts of America to create an award for members of troops, crews and ships. This new award will recognize youth who research and learn about the subjects of human health and the environment, as the EPA develops its vision for the next 50 years.

The objective of the EPA award is to combine a variety of disciplines to challenge and educate youth; introduce them to the breadth of the EPA's involvement in environmental protection and conservation; and encourage them to research, investigate, experiment, demonstrate, survey, and study air pollution, water pollution, solid and hazardous waste, and ocean dumping.

Name of youth:	<input type="text"/>	Unit No:	<input type="text"/>
Council name:	<input type="text"/>	Council No.	<input type="text"/>
Youth's email:	<input type="text"/>		
Youth's address:	<input type="text"/>		
City:	<input type="text"/>	State:	<input type="text"/>
		ZIP:	<input type="text"/>

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Name of youth: _____	Date Completed/Leader Initials
<b>Complete or already have completed* one merit badge from each category:</b>	
<b>1) Animal Study (circle badge completed)</b> a) Animal Science b) Bird Study c) Insect Study d) Mammal Study e) Reptile and Amphibian Study	1) _____ / _____
<b>2) Outdoor Activity (circle badge completed)</b> a) Backpacking b) Camping c) Canoeing d) Climbing e) Fishing f) Fly-Fishing g) Gardening h) Hiking i) Kayaking j) Scuba Diving k) Whitewater l) Wilderness Survival	2) _____ / _____
<b>3) Earth Science (circle badge completed)</b> a) Energy b) Forestry c) Geology d) Nature e) Oceanography f) Plant Science g) Soil and Water Conservation h) Weather	3) _____ / _____
<b>4) Earn the Public Health merit badge.</b>	4) _____ / _____
<b>5) During the 2021 calendar year, participate in an environmental/public health community service project as part of an approved Scouting program totaling at least 6 hours.</b>	5) _____ / _____
* Merit badges may be earned retroactively.	

I affirm that the above-named youth has completed all of the requirements for the 50th Anniversary Environmental Protection Agency Award.

Unit leader's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This is a restricted item available only in your local council trading post or Scout Shop.  
Return this signed application to the Scout Shop to receive the patch.





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Fall 2020

# THE COMMISSIONER

A PUBLICATION FOR COMMISSIONERS AND PROFESSIONALS

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



## The Power of a Scout Smile

Baden-Powell often said, "A Scout smiles and whistles under all circumstances."

I was struck by the essential truth of the power of a Scout smile, particularly in these challenging times. Think about how many times Scouting has brought a smile to your face. I recently enjoyed a Facebook video by a Cub Scout pack from Kennesaw, Georgia, sounding the alarm about a national popcorn shortage. The answer to all those smiling young Cub Scouts, of course, is to resupply your cupboards with Scout popcorn. Or enjoy Scout smiles on the world stage and enjoy any of the World Scout Jamboree videos on YouTube — my guess is that you will witness the unrivaled joy and friendship that Scouting offers our youth and adults. On a more personal level, think about your Scout interactions just this month. How many conversations have you had with Scouts whose friendships have immeasurably improved your life and brought a smile to your face? There truly is something to the power of a Scout smile.

Now, some 102 years after Baden-Powell's comment, we are being challenged on multiple fronts. I find strength in the knowledge that the mission of Scouting is to change lives for the better. I find strength in the millions of smiling faces in our common experiences and knowing that our mission has positively impacted the lives of millions of Scouts and Scouters. We have the opportunity to demonstrate to the nation our strength, resilience, and resolve as we work together to continue the mission of Scouting.

What is the clarion call for how we support Scouting at this moment in time? Simply put, we need to support our local units and deliver program to America's families every day. It is all about program, program, program. Local units need to be meeting on a regular basis, whether virtually, in person at a park, or using other solutions. We need to act with a sense of urgency. We need to act today. Reach out today 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.

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. The vast array of resources about different ways to deliver Scouting are listed in Larry Chase's article in this issue of *The Commissioner*. They represent the best of our



Scott Sorrels  
National Commissioner

collective vision on the local and national levels. View them as your toolkit of ideas about how you can support local unit program success.

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 Sorrels  
National Commissioner

*"You know you're a scout when...you can cater better for 20 than 2 and you know how many slices are in a loaf of bread."*





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## *Merit Badge Program*



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

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

### **Current Merit Badge Counselors and Guidelines:**

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

### **To become a Merit Badge Counselor:**

You can apply online [here](#) (note, please ensure you have a current YPT before filling out application). Alternatively, you can submit the following scanned/hardcopy information to the [Merit Badge Dean](#):

- [Adult Application](#),
- [Disclosure/Authorization Form \(part of Adult Application\)](#),
- [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)



# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

## MARCH/APRIL 2021

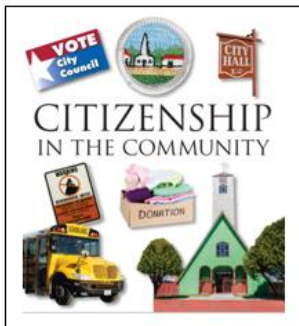
*"Life without adventure would be deadly dull" Baden-Powell*



## George Mason District 2021 (Virtual) Merit Badge Event

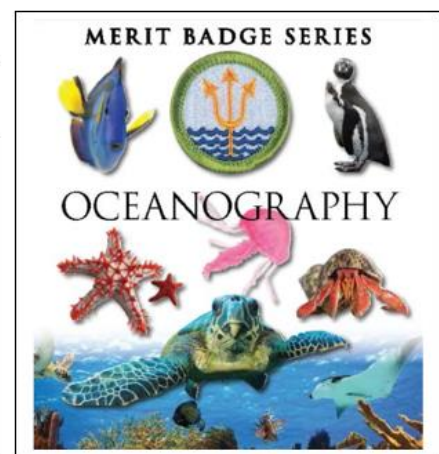
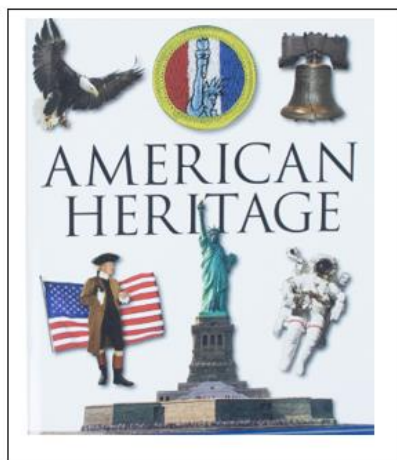
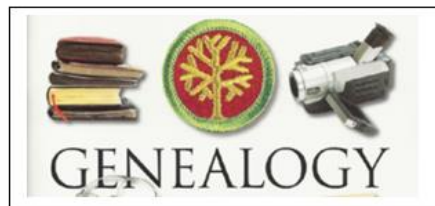
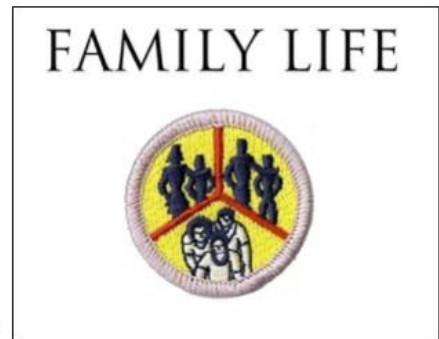
This year's begins on April 10th and ends April 24th. Registration begins on February 22nd to all Scouts in the District. Unless otherwise noted, classes run two days a week for two weeks. (Monday & Thursday, Tuesday & Friday, or Wednesday & Saturday, Sunday). Below are the Merit Badges that we plan to offer. We are still accepting MBC Counselors to volunteer their services so we can offer more opportunities for the Scouts.

### [GM Merit Badge Registration](#)



**Citizenship in the Community**

- Electricity
- Public Speaking
- Emergency Preparedness
- Family Life
- American Heritage
- Genealogy
- Oceanography





## GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS MARCH/APRIL 2021

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### George Mason Order of The Arrow – 2021 Ordeal Initiation

The Amangamek-Wipit Lodge has directed that all Spring 2021 Ordeals in the Lodge will be virtual on not in-person. We have no guidance yet for Fall 2021.

We are working with the Lodge and plan to have out OA 2021 Initiation Weekend (Ordeal/Brotherhood) date:

- April 30, May 1-2, 2021 Spring GM/Patriot Chapter Ordeal (Virtual)

Please save this date for now.

### 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>