



The Patriot Press



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Patriot District

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From the District Chairman

Advance notice: Patriot District again will support ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others) with a food drive on Saturday afternoon, October 17, 2020. Also, the Springfield Rotary is partnering with us. There is hunger among a significant portion of the population living in the Burke, West Springfield, Springfield, Fairfax Station, and Fairfax City communities. Families in need of food turn to ECHO for support and ECHO reports that they are providing food to over 500 hundred families, which is approximately four times the number of people they normally help. We have committed to collecting and delivering non-perishable food in non-breakable containers (no glass jars please) and personal care items such as tooth paste and toothbrushes. Also, ECHO accepts food that is slightly passed the recommended “use by” date.

We estimate that over 400 families from Patriot District will participate in the food Drive. Scouts should bring food from their home and possibly from friends, neighbors, and relatives. When collecting food, Scouts should remain safe at all times. They should practice “social distancing” by asking others to place their donation at a specified spot near the Scout’s home such as on the front porch or at the mail box.

Unit leaders from packs, troops, and crews are asked to register with Pat Ring to let us know their unit will participate by Tuesday, October 13, 2020. Just send him an e-mail at pring978@gmail.com. After the food drive, notify him of the approximate number of Scout families that participated. While ECHO will weigh the food, Patriot District would like to get an idea of how many scouts participated. Participation in this food drive fulfills item #6, Community Service, for scouts working on the NCAC Scouting at Home 2020 Award.

Volunteer needed: The Patriot District Committee needs a volunteer to manage our Facebook page. We will train the volunteer for this position. If interested, please contact me. I can be reached at wtdexterjr@gmail.com or by phone at home (703) 978-2632.

*Bill Dexter
Patriot District Committee Chair*



“A government is for the benefit of all the people.”

William Howard Taft (b. September 15, 1857)



From the District Commissioner

Our rechartering season is in session NOW! Not only does the rechartering portal open on October 2nd, but we also lose Member Data Shared Services at National as our Council registrar. The impact of this is September 18th, which is the last day we will forward applications to them. As we try to get a couple of our current employees at Council trained in registrar duties, applications will begin to pile up. To facilitate our renewal process, please do a review of your membership in the Member Manager of my.scouting.org website. That needs to reflect what you believe your full membership to be. If they don't match, the missing member(s) needs to either use the online application process or provide a paper application such that we can scan it to Texas by the 18th.

Every active Scouter had to take the new Youth Protection Training in 2018 to renew for 2019. This means those registered then must renew their YPT this year. How big of a problem is this for our District? We currently have 16.8% of our registered 1330 Scouters with already expired YPT and many more to join that category by year's end. Please use the report feature for your unit in the Training Manager of my.scouting.org to see who your expirees and soon to be expirees are and then ask them to update their YPT. If you don't know how to pull this report, please ask us to pull it for you. We have several unit Key 3's with expired YPT and this means your unit will be unable to recharter until they're current. Make September your YPT update month.

We have some new information from National regarding COVID-19 and advancement. I've posted the most recent COVID 19 FAQ's in the Docs and Files folder of our Key 3 Basecamp. This update extends the temporary changes to rank requirements and the relaxation of the use of virtual means for some rank and merit badge requirements to December 31, 2020. This deadline will be re-evaluated as needed. The most recent change impacting advancement from last week is the suspension of swimming requirements for 2nd and 1st Class and requirement 9b for Camping Merit Badge. National will provide a 30-day notice of their reinstatement. The NCAC guidance for advancement is not yet updated to reflect these new changes.

With all of this disruption to a lot of our planned activities, our units are continuing to do a lot of things within the constraints to which we must comply. The ingenuity of our leaders and older Scouts to make the Scouting journey continue this summer has been remarkable and we at the District level are grateful for your efforts.

David Astle
District Commissioner





From our District Executive

Fellow Scouts & Scouters,

What's that you smell? It's the delicious scent of Scouting in action as our annual popcorn sale kicks off to help units fund program activities year-round and Scouts learn valuable life skills like salesmanship, responsibility, and follow-through. Online sales have been strong in the Patriot District and many units have found creative ways to sell popcorn while adhering to current Covid-19 guidelines. Scouts, keep up the good work of supporting your unit, District, and Council!

Join Scouting Nights

While Scouting is open to new members year round, the fall is typically our biggest season for new recruits. All over our District you should start seeing "Join Scouting" signs. Haven't seen any signs yet? Email me at sarah.mckee@scouting.org to get a few to set up in your neighborhood. To find the nearest Join Scouting Night or Scouting unit, be sure to let people know about www.BeAScout.org. When they type in their address, a list of packs, troops, and crews pop up with a Google map and contact information.

Want the latest invites to Patriot District events, news, and updates? Follow Patriot District Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PatriotDistrict>.

Yours in Scouting,
Sarah McKee



The last print issue of Scouting magazine was the May-June issue. After a summer hiatus, the September-October issue is now online, both viewable and downloadable in the magazine format at <https://scoutingmagazine.org/>

Patriot District Events

Web Calendar: www.ncacbsa.org/patriot

September 2020

- 5-6 STEMaTHON Online
- 8 Commissioner Meeting (virtual)
- 10 Roundtable (virtual)
- 10 Recharter training at Roundtable (virtual)
- 11 Popcorn Order #2 Due
- 13 Patriot District OA Chapter Meeting*
- 18 Rosh Hashanah begins (sundown)
- 18-19 OA Lodge Ordeal & Day of Service
- 18-20 Wood Badge ("Fall" Course, Weekend 1)
- 22 PD Committee Meeting (virtual)
- 25-27 Cub Scout Fall Family EXPO Camping (Camp Snyder)
- 27 Yom Kippur Begins (sundown)
- 27 Patriot Press Deadline – October



* Status to be determined

October 2020

- 2 Online Rechartering Window Opens
- 2-4 OA Ordeal*
- 3 Popcorn distribution #2
- 3-4 Wood Badge ("Spring" Course, Weekend 2)
- 8 Roundtable*
- 9-11 Cub Scout Fall Family EXPO Camping (Camp Snyder)
- 11 Patriot District OA Chapter Meeting*
- 12 Columbus Day
- 13 Commissioner Meeting*
- 17 Patriot District Food Drive
- 17-18 Wood Badge ("Fall" Course, Weekend 2)
- 23-25 V3 Hike-O-Ree (cancelled)
- 24 Life-to-Eagle Seminar (virtual)
- 27 PD Committee Meeting (virtual)

November 2020

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Patriot Press Deadline – November | 14 Scouting for Food - Pickup |
| 7 Scouting for Food – Distribution | 14 Popcorn Final Distribution |
| 8 Patriot District OA Chapter Mtg. | 20-22 Webelos/Scouts BSA Fall Family Camping EXPO |
| 10 Deadline for Recharter Submission to UC for on-time Processing | 23 Popcorn Final Order Due |
| 10 Commissioner Meeting | 24 PD Committee Meeting* |
| 11 Veterans Day | 26 Thanksgiving |
| 12 Roundtable* | 29 Patriot Press Deadline – December |

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, September 10, 2020

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: Fire Safety Month, Cyber Chip/Internet Safety

Word of the month: Loyal

Cory Okouchi, Cub Scout Roundtable Commissioner
cweskrige@gmail.com



Patriot District Scouts BSA Roundtable

Not just for Scoutmasters

Thursday, September 10, 2020

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

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

Midway: 7:45 PM

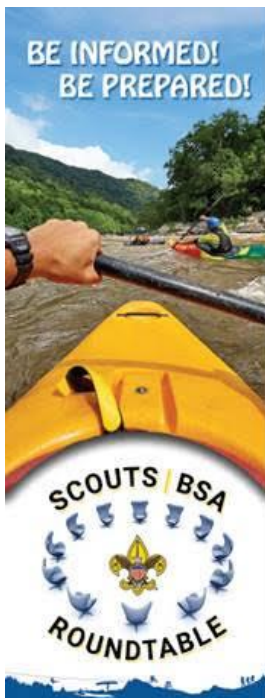
Roundtable: 8:00 - 9:00 PM

Topics: Recharter Training Q&A
Risk Management

Parent Coaching, Covid Corner – Hybrid Meetings

Joe Margraf, Scouts BSA Roundtable Commissioner
703-314-1622, joedenisemargraf@aol.com

Asst. Scouts BSA RT Commissioners: Justin Day, Rick Priest



RECHARTERING FOR 2021

Successful rechartering is all about preparation. If the proper groundwork is laid, on-line rechartering is a simple exercise. If not, it becomes both a hassle and error-prone.

September is the time to organize your roster for the coming year. Make sure that everyone in your unit is registered, find out who is or is not going to re-register, and collect the fees for the coming year.

Submit any pending registrations now. Registrations submitted with the recharter slow down processing at every level, and increase the chance that the entire recharter submission will be held up because of problems. Resolving a problem with an individual registration is much easier than dealing with one in the middle of a recharter submission.

YPT is going to be a problem this year. (See the comment in Dave Astle's Commissioner's column.) Before submitting, be prepared to drop someone who doesn't respond, and have them re-register afterwards if they want to stay in the unit.

Finally, please submit your rechartering package to your unit commissioner by November 10th. The submissions receive careful review by the district, and we need to get them to council as soon as possible to make sure that they are processed before your charter expires after December 31st. Late submissions are going to be going to the registrar in a virtual "tsunami" of paperwork arriving all at once, and can expect to be processed in the order received.

Lee Cass
Assistant District Commissioner



YPT: It's a Safety Issue

ARE ALL OF YOUR ADULTS CURRENT WITH YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING?

Youth Protection Training (YPT) is not simply an administrative requirement. It is a keystone of BSA's program. The youth protection rules and procedures are intended to protect both our Scouts and our Scouters. For the sake of your youth, your unit leadership, and your chartered organization, please make every effort to ensure that the adults in your unit stay current with their Youth Protection Training.



NCAC and Patriot District Program News

Family Camping Continues in the Fall at Camp Snyder

Each Weekend this Fall (2020), Camp Snyder is offering Family Camping with programs. Programs include Shooting Sports, COPE/ Climbing, STEM, Woodshop Activities and others. Weekends are: September 25 - 27, October 23 – 25, and November 20 – 22. Registration will be at gotosnyder.org.

Additional weekends may have space available for families and small Patrol/Den - size groups without formal programs. However, groups can work on advancement requirements with older Scouts and leaders and the fishing pond and nature trails are available. You can register at <https://scoutingevent.com/082-39785>

Guidance for Units to begin in-person camping

The Council has issued guidance for units on relaunching in-person activities and meetings. [Please click here to learn more.](#) There is also guidance on meeting specific advancement requirements. <https://weownadventure.com/covid-19-advancement-update/>

Goshen 2021: Unit Registration Opens

September 8 @ 9:00 am - 11:59 pm

- Registration opens for units at 9am.
- Due to COVID-19, all camps will be in Deposit Phase until March 1, 2021.
- Provisional Scout registration for Provisional Camp will open on March 1, 2021.

Save the dates for Summer Camp 2021 at Goshen Scout Reservation!

Next summer, we'll be offering five weeks of summer camp at all our Webelos and Scouts BSA/Venturing resident camps and four weeks of backpacking program and river trekking program at Lenhok'sin High Adventure.

Week 1: June 27 – July 3, 2021

Week 2: July 4 – July 10, 2021

Week 3: July 11 – July 17, 2021

Week 4: July 18 – July 24, 2021

Week 5: July 25 – July 31, 2021

Learn more about Goshen's Webelos camps, Scouts BSA/Venturing camps, Lenhok'sin High Adventure, the Provisional Camp program, and Summer Camp 2021 at www.gotogoshen.org.

*John Merchant
Vice Chair, Program*



Patriot Chapter OA News



Lodge Fellowship Re-Tooled and Date Changed

The Lodge Fellowship originally scheduled for September 11–13 at Camp Snyder has been changed to a one-day Service event on Saturday, September 19. Concurrently, there is also a Lodge-wide Ordeal that weekend on Friday/Saturday, September 18–19. The number of people allowed to register for each event will be limited to comply with Covid-19 protocols being enforced. If you are a current member of the OA and would really like to participate in either the Service Day or the Lodge Ordeal, please send an email to patriotchapter@wipit470.org; we will send you a link to a registration form.

Patriot Chapter Fall Ordeal: October 2 – 4

The Virginia Central Area Ordeal is scheduled for October 2–4 at Camp Snyder. Patriot and George Mason Districts have teamed up to work together within this Area Ordeal to induct our candidates. Because of the Pandemic, a number of protocols and procedures have been developed to ensure everyone's health and safety. Part of that is for each of the Chapter to limit the number of candidates and members. However, we will need Elangomats (members to guide the clans), ceremonialists (no previous experience necessary – we'll train), cook staff, and health and safety staff. You should expect an email within the next couple of weeks with a registration form and additional instructions and pre-event requirements.

Candidate Welcome Sessions

If you got elected this year to the OA, you are a Candidate. If you missed the Welcome Sessions last month, you can review the materials presented at patriot.wipit470.org/welcome. Thanks to the Patriot officers and members who helped put that together and present it.

Troop Order of the Arrow Representatives (TOAR)

Unit Elections begin in December and continue through March. In order to facilitate these unit visits, Each Scouts BSA and Venture Unit should appoint a current youth member of the OA, if you have one, to be the TOAR for that unit. If done properly, filling that role could fulfil the leadership requirement for Eagle. For more information on TOAR and TOAR Adviser, check the national web site at Unit OA Rep Resources. If your unit currently has a TOAR, or appoints one, please let us know at patriotchapter@wipit470.org with the name and unit. To help unit leaders, we will be sending a roster of current OA Members for each unit.

Mark your Calendars to Help Support a Patriot District Food Drive Saturday, October 17

The Patriot District will sponsor a Food Drive to collect canned goods and staple products for ECHO. Patriot OA members have been asked to staff the collection point at Westwood Baptist Church and the unloading at ECHO. We will need at least 5-10 Scouts at each location and a youth leader to supervise.



Establishment of STEM Scouts Laboratory Units in Patriot District

We are excited to announce the formation of the STEM Scouts program in the Patriot District. NCAC explored STEM Scouts as a pilot program in 2018 and officially approved the program in the Fall of 2019, standing parallel to Cubs, Scout BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scouts. Because the program is designed for an indoor laboratory environment, its curriculum is naturally adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic challenges as BSA quickly re-engineered and packaged all STEM activity kits for individual youth.

Graciously sponsored by Burke Centre Conservancy, youth as well as Scouts able to register for FY 2021 to be the members of the two District-wide laboratory units as follows:

- One Junior Laboratory for youth in Grades 3 to 5
- One Technology Laboratory for youth Grades 6 to 8

General STEM Scouts membership registration starts at the first week in September and continues throughout the year to provide the flexibility for youth to join the program. We are diligently working with the STEM Scouts Executive to have the two lab units registered. Upon completion of the lab unit registration, information will be made available to provisionally register at the individual account created in the nationwide STEM Scouts portal.

Facts about STEM Scouts for Season 6 in the Patriot District

- Information on how to register for STEM Scouts membership is available soon
- Starting in September youth and scouts are able to select:
 - Junior Lab for Grades 3-5
 - Technology Lab for Grades 6-8
- Expiration date: December 2021
- Youth membership fee for Season 6:
 - \$250 for full year program (\$25 startup fee waived)
 - \$200 for partial program (\$20 startup fee waived)
- Adult leader membership fee is \$40
- The Season 6 curriculum for Junior Lab includes these topics: Anatomy, Animation, Magnetism, Earth Science, and Astronomy. (Elementary School Modules)
- The Season 6 curriculum for Technology Lab includes these topics: Film/TV, Mobile App, Animation, Snap Circuits, and Simple Machines. (Middle School Modules)

*Sokhom Kith
STEM Coordinator*



“The most rewarding things you do in life are often the ones that look like they can’t be done.”

~ Arnold Palmer (b. September 10, 1929)

Patriot District Awards

Thank you to all the units who submitted nominations for recognition by the District. We were able to collect a great cadre of leaders who are most worthy of recognition so while we cannot meet in person to have a full-blown celebration, we will be having a two part recognition event! The first part will be as part of the upcoming September roundtable (9/10), where we will announce the recipients of the District Award of Merit. Then at the October roundtable (10/8) we will be announcing the recipients of our other awards, including: Distinguished Patriot Scouter, Outstanding Scoutmaster(s), Outstanding Cubmaster(s), Outstanding ASMs, etc... We will be reaching out to individuals ahead of time to notify them but please spread the word within your units so that we can celebrate these outstanding Scouters!



Patriot District Training

Word was recently sent out that NCAC districts are beginning to be allowed to resume sessions of Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) and Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO). We will be working to figure out locations and logistics to possibly offer one or both of these courses as soon as possible. Please keep an eye out for any additional announcements regarding these opportunities.

In the meantime, don't forget that everyone who completed the updated YPT training in 2018 will need to do their refresh training before rechartering starts in the next couple months. Now is a great time to get that done! If you need any assistance running training reports, please reach out and I can assist you.

*Justin Day
Training Chair*



Membership Notes

Thanks for all you are doing for our local youth during this challenging time. With so much activity being conducted online these days it only makes sense that as much of this year's registration process occur online as possible. To do this well we need to ensure that that each unit's PIN is up to date on the BEASCOUT.ORG website. Units should also consider including any additional information that will aid prospective Scouts and their families in making a decision about their unit (contact info for unit POCs, unit calendar/schedule, dues/fees and relief considerations, volunteering, link to unit website, etc.). Also, consider having two people who regularly can log in to approve/accept online applications. We want to ensure new applications are accepted by units shortly after they are submitted. This will allow the applications to be processed so that new Scouts and/or Leaders information will be good to go for upcoming unit recharter packets.

*John R. Stewart
Vice Chair for Membership
john.r.stewart.mha@gmail.com*

The 2020 Road to Scouting

Cancelled Due to COVID and Video Restrictions



Usually held the second weekend in September each year, the 2020 Road to Scouting seminar for WEBELOS 2/Arrow of Light (AoL) Scouts and their families has been cancelled due to current COVID 19 pandemic guidance and BSA youth video restrictions. The goal of this annual seminar is to provide AoL Scouts and their families a snapshot of how Scouts BSA differs from the Cub Scout WEBELOS program. Typically Scouts from all participating Troops offer insights into what local Troops offer in terms of their meetings, outdoor activities, training, advancement, youth leadership, summer camps, high adventure, among other differences from what AoL Scouts have experienced to date. AoL Scouts and their families should browse the websites of Scouts BSA Troops in the area. Nearby Troops can be located on the BEASCOUT.ORG website by typing in your Zip Code.

The following questions and comments (excerpted from the *Bryan on Scouting BLOG*) may help lead you to a “good fit” of your Scout to a Troop:

1. Does my child feel comfortable in this troop? This is the first and most important question. What vibe did your Scout get when checking out the troop? If possible, it’s smart to visit a few different troops to find the one with the best fit. “When visiting the troops, we stepped back to allow our son to make the final decision about which group of boys he wanted to hang out with,” says Rebecca H.

2. When does the troop meet? Check your family schedule. Does the troop meet on a night when your Scout absolutely can’t attend? That might be a deal-breaker.

3. Where does the troop meet? Plug the address into Google Maps and see how long it’ll take to drive to the meeting site from your house. “I kept it within 30 minutes driving,” says Todd K.

4. How often do you go camping? “Once a month” is a great answer!

5. What are some of your troop’s core/signature events? Find out if the troop has a favorite place it returns to each year or is planning some sort of epic trip.

6. Is the troop youth-led? One way to find out might be to ask a Scout where they go with questions. If they answer “my patrol leader,” that’s a good sign. Witnessing a meeting and how it’s run can tell a lot.

7. Does your troop participate in high-adventure trips? Jacob C. says this question is important because “high adventure is a big help in keeping the older youth around to lead and teach the younger Scouts. It’s also a great recruiting tool for new Scouts.”

8. What other activities are your Scouts involved in? Scouts are busier than ever these days — with school, sports and other non-Scouting activities all pulling on their time. The best troops encourage this. With a little planning and support from Mom or Dad, young people can make time for everything. “Is it an all or nothing troop?” Janet H. asks. “Can my son show up late due to sports?”

9. How are activities funded? Is it “fundraising or the ‘bank of Mom and Dad?’” asks Michele K. Troops that plan one or two quality money-earning projects per year enjoy more Scouting fun for less money out of pocket.

10. Are service projects a priority? Scouts are supposed to “help other people at all times.” How often does the troop participate in projects that give back to the community?

11. At what pace do Scouts typically advance in rank? “Ask a few Scouts when they last advanced in rank,” says Dave S. If a Scout wants to advance in rank toward Eagle Scout, how will the troop support his or her journey? This will tell you something, but not everything. Advancement is an important part of Scouting, but advancement alone doesn’t determine the success of a troop. For proof, look at the Journey to Excellence scorecard, where advancement is just one of 11 categories that determine troop quality.

12. Has the troop achieved Journey to Excellence bronze, silver or gold status? Journey to Excellence, or JTE, is the BSA’s tool for helping units track the quality of their program. Participation is optional, but troops that use the JTE scorecard are taking an active step toward improving the ways they serve Scouts.

13. Are youth and adult leaders trained? Have a number of youth leaders completed their council’s National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) course? Have any adult leaders taken their council’s Wood Badge training? Trained leaders — both youth and adult — are signs of a quality troop.

14. How big is the troop? There are large troops, medium-sized troops and small troops. Determining which one is the best fit for your Scout is a family decision. “We didn’t want a troop too large that our sons got lost in the chaos and not too small where the workload was heavy for adult volunteers,” says Tracy B.

15. How are Scouts with special needs welcomed? If your Scout has special needs, you might want to ask whether the troop has experience working with all kinds of Scouts. If the troop hasn’t yet had this opportunity, don’t worry! There are plenty of resources available to help everyone involved.

16. Is caffeine available? Tammy P.’s question might be the most important one of all: “Is there coffee on the campouts? If not, then you might have to find another troop.” How can someone find a troop in the first place? Using BeAScout.org, and typing in your Zip Code. If you have any questions on the above send me an email and I will be glad to assist.

Yours in Scouting,

John R. Stewart
Vice Chair for Membership
john.r.stewart.mha@gmail.com

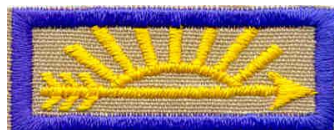


**ATTENTION SCOUTS BSA TROOPS:
Join Scouting Event Info**



Please submit short articles on your Troop’s Join Scouting events to Patriot District Communication at patriotdistrictcommunication@gmail.com by the end of this month so they can be summarized/published in the October issue of the Patriot Press.

ATTENTION AOL/WEBELOS SCOUTS and PARENTS:



Be on the lookout for next month’s Patriot Press articles for our information on our local Scouts BSA Troops. It will tell you how to participate in their upcoming activities.

Pack 873 Protects the Environment and Helps Feed Local Families

Over the last several months, Cub Scouts in Pack 873 have been busy supporting their local communities. In April, the Pack teamed up with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District to educate our neighbors about water runoff and the local watershed. As part of our Conservation Good Turn project we provided educational material to hundreds of households in the Canterbury Woods, Long Branch, Red Fox Forest, Oak Hill, Willow Woods, and Stone Haven communities. So far we have labeled almost 300 sewer drains with “No Dumping” markers. In July we participated in Trash The Trash Day and in August we hosted another day of drain labeling and trash pick-up in local parks. These two events generated about 6 large trash bags of garbage from our local watershed. Additionally, we turned both of these events into food drives for local food pantries, filling two minivans with food.

Pack 873 Cub Scouts Serving Their Communities



Conservation Good Turn Project



Food Drive

“The best way to teach your kids about taxes is by eating 30 percent of their ice cream.”

~ Bill Murray (b. September 21, 1950)

Troop 1965G: Socially Distant Camping, and Serving, and Having Fun!

The last weekend in August, Troop 1965G, sponsored by the Lake Braddock Community Association, returned to camping in person. We went to Brunswick Family Campground in Brunswick, MD, where the Troop had camped and kayaked on the Potomac last year. This time, COVID-19 precautions were in place, the big event was a bike ride on the C & O canal towpath, and to somewhat make up for missing a week of summer camp (due to the pandemic), three nights of camping were planned.



The event went well, with all wearing masks and no tent buddies. Cooking Merit Badge requirements were done in masks and gloves, Camping Merit Badge requirements were done in masks, and everyone was socially distant even around the campfire. Camping Merit Badge lessons were taught under the picnic shelter as we waited for remnants of Hurricane Laura to pass by. We were able to Zoom the in-person lessons with those Scouts who were unable to be at camp with us. We completed a conservation service project for the camp on Saturday afternoon. Due to the remnants of Hurricane Laura passing through on Saturday, we switched our scheduled plans and did the bike ride on Sunday. It was a very pleasant day for the bike ride. We wanted to get those 15 required miles for Camping Merit Badge, so we pedaled 7.5 miles down the C & O, turned around, stopped for lunch at Point of Rocks, then headed back toward our campsite. But we even went farther! Passing camp, we headed into town (another mile) crossed the RR tracks, and got ice cream at the Corner Store. Yummy and fun!

For troops who want to do such activities, Brunswick Family Campground and River & Trail Outfitters offer a campground with picnic shelters, bathhouses, open field for tents, RV sites, a ramp to the Potomac, and access to the C & O canal. Bring your tent, the trees are not good for hammocks; and bring your ear plugs, trains go through the Brunswick station through the night. You may bring your own bikes/boats, or rent from the outfitters. When the troop went kayaking last year, I brought my own canoe, paid the fee, and they hauled my boat back to camp with the rest. This year, most of us brought our own bikes, and those who needed to rented bikes. Contact them at rivertrail.com or (301) 834-9950.

Howard Kaye
Assistant Scoutmaster



Troop 1965G Outdoor Scouting Fun at Brunswick Family Campground



Burke BSA Troops Speak with NASA Astronaut Jack Fischer

Troop 1965B and Troop 1344 Scouts were virtually “in orbit” on Monday, August 17th, as they had the privilege of hosting NASA Astronaut Jack “2fish” Fischer (Colonel, retired, US Air Force) virtually as their guest speaker at a joint Zoom meeting between the two Burke troops. Colonel Fischer, a 1996 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, attended the Academy 25 years ago with Air Force Colonel Tad Clark, a parent in Troop 1344, and Colonel Varun Puri (retired), a parent and Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 1965B.



At the meeting, Colonel Fischer wowed the Scouts with the incredible story of his journey to the International Space Station on Expedition 51/52 in 2017. He described what it was like to launch from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan with Russian cosmonaut Fyodor Yurchikhin, accelerating to 17,150 miles per hour (about 5 miles per second!) to rendezvous with the Station. He talked about the incredible science the crew accomplished on orbit, his two space walks with fellow astronaut Peggy Whitson, the breathtaking views of Earth from outer space, and much more.

Afterwards, the Troop’s Scouts asked questions about Colonel Fischer’s career, and he offered them valuable advice as well as highlighting the importance of lessons learned in Scouting. As for those who want to be astronauts? “Find something you’re passionate about,” Colonel Fischer said, because, as he pointed out, as future exploration and habitation in space becomes longer duration and more commonplace, the space program will not just need pilots and engineers but all kinds of talents and specialties.



It was truly an honor to have a chance to talk to an American hero like Colonel Fischer, and our Scouts have newfound respect for the cosmos, our planet, and the incredible astronauts and cosmonauts that dedicate their lives to exploring them!

Varun Puri
Assistant Scoutmaster
Troop 1965B



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.

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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

Sarah McKee	District Executive	Sarah.McKee@Scouting.org
Work: (301) 214-9128; Cell: (402) 680-7055		
Bill Dexter	District Committee Chair	wtdexterjr@gmail.com
Dave Astle	District Commissioner	dave.sonia@verizon.net
John Merchant	Vice Chair, Program	merchantj@verizon.net
John Stewart	Vice Chair, Membership	john.r.stewart.mha@gmail.com
VACANT	Vice Chair, Development	
Kevin Reed	Vice Chair, Communications	kevin.gregory.reed@gmail.com
Justin Day	Training Chair	kappasighacksaw@yahoo.com
Tom Tyra	Advancement Chair	Thomas.tyra@gmail.com
Kelsey St. Louis	OA Adviser	kpstlouis@gmail.com
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

