



# Goose Creek District Newsletter



September 2023

Volume 15, Issue 2

## Special Interest:

### District

- Webelos-o-ree – pg 2

### Advancement

- Life to Eagle Seminar – pg 7
- Completing Partial Merit Badges – pg 10

### Council/National

- Scouting Families in Maui – pg 8
- Cub Scout Camping – pg 10
- Jamboree on the Air - pg 11
- Wreaths Across America - pg 12

### Training

- IOLS and BALOO – pg 16

## Quick Calendar:


- Sep 13 – Roundtable
- Sep 30 – Webelos-o-ree
- Oct 11 – Roundtable
- Oct 21-22 – JOTA/JOTI
- Nov 4 – Scouting for Food Notices Out
- Nov 8 – Roundtable
- Nov 11 – Scouting for Food Pickup

## Newsletter Key:

 Cub Scout Interest

 Boy Scout / Venturing Interest

 For Everyone

 New Article /Updated Information



from ScoutmasterCG

## Why Scouting?

Observe a community or classroom anywhere in the world and you will conclude that boys instinctively form groups, adopt uniforms, establish standards, develop a credo and create initiatory challenges. While most educational systems battle these instincts scouting gives them a means of positive expression. Boys yearn to belong, to gain acceptance and approval outside the confines of their family. Their imperfect search for guidance and understanding is often met with suspicion and misapprehension. In adolescence they try on lots of attitudes and poses paradoxically seeking approval from the adult world in their very rebellion against it. It can be a tough time for everybody.

We all more or less hammered our way through adolescence in whatever way we could. Some had it easier than others. There were some people who made the process more difficult for us and some who helped. That's part of the reason that I am a Scoutmaster – I'd like to help. I like to go camping, I like to teach, and I like to cook over a fire.

Scouting, for all the protestations otherwise, is not an ideology. It is a movement with a program that recognizes how to channel the unstable energies and excesses of adolescence. When scouting doesn't work as it should it is usually adults who have made a real mess of things; it is almost never the fault of boys.

Our volunteers in Scouting are a cross-section of American culture. We represent the a full spectrum of socioeconomic, religious and political views but Scouting possesses a great potential to be inclusive, resilient and to to bring people together.

After beginning in Great Britain in 1907 the movement spread around the world. In 1910 Scouting arrived in United States. The Boy Scouts of America has had an illustrious, if sometimes troubled, history. We have yet to realize the full potential of Scouting for inclusion but change comes slowly.

Scouting is different from any other youth program and getting it right requires dedication and study. Scouting shares the paradoxical combination of simplicity and complexity found in a round of golf or a game of baseball. The basics take a few minutes to learn and a lifetime to master.

## District News

District Website: [www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek](http://www.NCACBSA.org/GooseCreek)



### Webelos-O-Ree 2023



**When:** September 30 - October 1, 2023

**Where:** Camp Snyder, Haymarket VA

The Webelos-O-Ree is an overnight camping event designed to introduce Webelos Scouts and their parents to the Scouts BSA program. The weekend is full of fun and outdoor adventure led by Goose Creek District Troops. By design; interacting with these Troops provides the Webelos Scouts, Den Leader and parents with opportunities to gauge how each Troop practices the patrol method, meet their leadership and learn about their lifestyle.

The Webelos-O-Ree begins with an opening ceremony Saturday morning and ends Sunday morning after chapel services. The Saturday evening campfire is a special highlight featuring a ceremony by our Order of the Arrow Chapter's team and skits put on by the Webelos themselves.

#### REGISTRATION

Participation in the Webelos-O-Ree is open to all Webelos Scouts (including those working on Arrow of Light). Register and pay online at:

<https://scoutingevent.com/082-64882>

Registration by Unit (Pack/Den) is encouraged, although individual registrations will be accepted. All registrations made in advance by September 19 will receive Early-Bird pricing of \$5 OFF for each category. After this date, Regular pricing goes into effect, raising all fees by \$5 per person.

**ALL REGISTRATIONS WILL CLOSE ON SEPTEMBER 26**, including signing up new registrants and the ability to modify existing ones. We must enforce this deadline to determine final attendee counts for campsite assignments, meal planning and food purchasing. Please respect the event planners intent to deliver a quality program for you by registering EARLY.

All Scouts from each Pack will be assigned to the same campsite, regardless of the way they register or when they register.

Here are the fee options for the weekend:

**Rate A – Camping overnight.** The cost is \$40 (\$35 if Early-Bird) per person and includes dinner Saturday evening and breakfast Sunday morning.

**Rate B – Staying through campfire.** The cost is \$35 (\$30 if Early-Bird) per person and includes dinner Saturday evening.

**Rate C – Visiting for the day.** The cost is \$30 (\$25 if Early-Bird) per Webelos to cover the event fee. Adults are free in this category.

Den Chiefs (Scouts in a Troop, not the Den Leader) attend this event free of charge. Day tripper Adults and Den Chiefs must still register (no cost).

For additional information, download the Leader Guide at the registration site.

## Now's A Good Time to Make Sure Your BeAScout Pin Is Up to Date



There are lots of different ways to recruit new members to Scouting. One of the easiest and most valuable is to make sure your unit's information is up to date at [BeAScout.org](https://BeAScout.org), the official BSA site that allows members of the public to find Scouting units near them.

The BeAScout website allows anyone to search for a Cub Scout pack, Scouts BSA troop, Venturing crew, Sea Scout ship or Exploring post by zip code. We call the search results "pins" because they're displayed on a web page that looks like pins on a map.

Each pin represents a different Scouting unit, and when you click on a pin, you find contact information and sometimes even an online application that allows a member of the public to sign up for your unit right then and there.

There's just one catch: You have to keep your unit's information up to date; otherwise, people looking to join the BSA could be greeted by outdated email addresses and phone numbers.

The good news is, it's easy to do. Here's [how](#).



## Shooting Sports Corner



This month's Shooting Sports corner is focusing on muzzle-loading, a very fun event for Scouts BSA but requires good training for instructors as muzzle-loading is complicated.

Baltimore Area Council is sponsoring a basic muzzle-loading course on 6-8 October 2023 and an instructor course on 11-12 November 2023. These courses would prepare an individual with full muzzle-loading skills to prepare and run a unique shooting sports opportunity for Scouts BSA/Venturers/Sea Scouts.

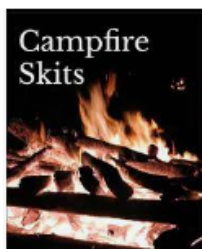
Baltimore Council Shooting Sports: <https://Scoutingevent.com/220-23shootingports>

Another [muzzle-loading event](#) is at Camp Rock Enon in VA weekend of 10-12 November 2023, this is the full course, including basic course, Basic Instructor Training (BIT) and instructor course.

As always, know what you're shooting at, Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot and always keep your firearm unloaded until ready to shoot.

The safety is a mechanical device and can fail. Until next month, see you on the range.

## Campfire Skit Collection



Our newsletter editor, Dr. Alan Steiner, has gone through the internet and pulled together a Campfire Skit Collection of over 300 skits and is making it available to everyone. Just contact him at [Alan.Steiner@GooseCreekDistrict.org](mailto:Alan.Steiner@GooseCreekDistrict.org) and request a copy.

Note: This is the only collection that include's our Webelos-O-Ree's "Pie in the Face" skit since that created by us specifically for that event

## The NCAC Participation Fee



After an intensive 18-month strategic planning process, NCAC’s volunteer Executive Board determined that our Scouts would be better served by a local Council Participation Fee that would provide consistent revenue and be more equitable to those who support our Scouts. Beginning January 1, 2024, an annual Council Participation Fee of \$80.00 will be assessed to all youth participating in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scouts programs. For Scouts currently registered, the Council Participation Fee will be collected as part of your unit’s annual re-registration — often referred to as “rechartering.”

- Families with three (3) or more Scouts will be capped at paying three (3) Participation Fees.
- Scouts participating in more than one program will pay one (1) Participation Fee.
- No youth will be turned away for an inability to pay the Participation Fee. NCAC has always provided financial assistance when needed and will continue to do so.

### Adults

- No registered adult will incur a participation fee.

### Understanding Annual Fees

- NCAC does not directly receive any of the BSA membership fees currently paid as shown below.
- Units may have additional fees or dues to pay for a unit’s programs and activities; those fees also remain with the unit, and do not go to NCAC. Many units also fundraise for these fees and activities, we encourage units to continue those efforts.

ANNUAL YOUTH FEES					
 BSA					<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>  <b>\$80</b> Membership Fee                             </div> <div>  <b>\$25</b> BSA YOUTH NEW-MEMBER JOINING FEE                             </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 5px;"> <div>  <b>\$15</b> SCOUT LIFE MAGAZINE                             </div> </div>
 NCAC					<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>  <b>\$80</b> Participation Fee                             </div> </div>
Scouting Units - Packs, Troops, Crews and Ships					Fees Vary by Unit

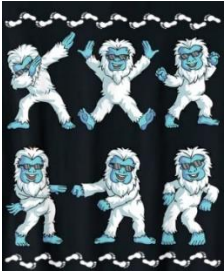
### Why is there a new Council Participation Fee?

NCAC works tirelessly to deliver a safe and high-quality Scouting program to our families in a cost-effective manner. Today it annually costs \$240 per youth to deliver this quality Scouting program.

In prior years, NCAC has subsidized 100% of this cost through corporate donations, major gifts, foundations, fundraising events, board donations, and our Family Friends of Scouting campaign. However, in recent years, the combination of a steady decline in participation in our Family Friends of Scouting — less than 10% of all families in Scouting — and the volunteer and professional costs required to maintain this campaign has made it impractical to continue this model.

Nationwide, we have seen many other local councils successfully transition to this participation fee model, while focusing on membership growth. This change will also allow our staff and volunteer time to directly support our units and programs instead of soliciting contributions.

## Save the Date – Freeze-o-ree 2024



Save the Date - January 26-28 - Goose Creek District Freeze-O-Ree. Presented by the Goose Creek Chapter of the Order of the Arrow. This year - Yeti Mania!



## Cheerful Service Chatter”

Chapter News for our Arrowmen

Lodge Website: [www.ncacbsa.org/group/OA](http://www.ncacbsa.org/group/OA)

## September Chapter Meeting



Unit Goose Creek Arrowmen - Join us at our September Chapter meeting, to be held on September 13th, 7:30 PM at Belmont Ridge Middle School.

We have a lot to talk about, including supporting a packed event calendar for 2023-2024 - the upcoming Webeloree, the Freeze-o-ree, our 2024 Ordeal, and NOAC next summer, as well as upcoming service projects. This is also your chance to get more involved as we recruit for the Chapter Ceremonies team, recruit some committee chairs, and discuss our open Vice Chief position.

We'll also take the opportunity, as a Chapter, to say farewell to Mr. Rich Pender, who unexpectedly passed away last month.

Please come on out - we look forward to seeing you!

## Onward and Upward”

On the Advancement Trail



## New Eagles



Congratulations to Goose Creek's newest Eagles:

**Jason Carmichael** – Troop 998

**John Economou** – Troop 572

**Raqeeb Martinez-Jaka** – Troop 1430

**Henry Mercker** – Troop 962

**Larkin Rice** – Troop 39

**Tulliver Rice** – Troop 39

**Colin Sparrow** – Troop 761

**Alexander Thompson** – Troop 966



## Completing Partial Merit Badges



Partials refer to merit badges that for whatever reason are not completed during the summer camp session. The Scout has done some of the requirements towards being awarded the merit badge but for one reason or another, has not been able to cover all of them. Partials may also occur when a Scout starts the badge with a counselor who has since moved away or retired from Scouting while the Scout is still working on the requirements, or most likely, taking a break from working on the requirements.

To finish the merit badge it is up to the Scout to make an appointment with another merit badge counselor to complete the missing requirements. There is no requirement that the original counselor be the one to whom they go or that they have to wait till the next summer camp to complete it. If troop level or district level merit badge counselors exist for the subject badge, the wise Scoutmaster, Troop Advancement Chair, and/or Troop Committee would make certain that the list of those counselors is readily available to the Scout so he knows where to begin the trail to completion.

### Important Facts:

- The only expiration date on a partial is the Scout turning 18. If a Scout got the partial when they were 11 they can still complete it when they are 17 years and 11 months old.
- The only requirements the Scout needs to do are the ones not signed on the Blue Card. The new merit badge counselor cannot make a Scout redo a signed requirement as a test or not accept it because they suspect the 'quality' of the work done. If it's been signed then it's done, period. Conversely, if all the Scout has is a worksheet from camp of what was done and it wasn't also signed on the Blue Card then it officially wasn't done and it is up to the counselor on whether to accept it or not.

Changes in the merit badge requirements that have occurred since the partial was done are not to be considered. The Scout must complete only the requirements in place when the badge was started. This means that any new requirements do not have to be done, on the other hand, any requirements that were dropped but were not completed do have to be done. Alternatively, while a Scout cannot mix-n-match requirements from two versions of a merit badges old and new requirements, they do have the option of simply 'starting over' with just the new requirements.



There's only one way a group of Scouts wants to put out the campfire, and they'll have no way of knowing how bad an idea this is until they actually do it.



## Life-to-Eagle Seminar



The next L2E Seminar is tentatively scheduled for.

**Date:** Sat, November 18, 2023

**Time:** 10:00 – 2:00

**Place:** [A “TBD” Loudoun County Public Library (pending availability confirmation)]

While primarily targeted for the Life-to-Eagle Advisers & Coordinators at the unit level, these trainings, but are by no means limited to same. Life Scouts and their parents are strongly encouraged to attend as well. The key goal is to get each of the unit Eagle Advisers up to speed on changes to the process, and some of the district-level mechanics of same. That way, they can help share the message to the Life Scouts in their units on a more frequent basis.

If you are a Life-to-Eagle Adviser or Advancement Chair for your Unit and have not attended one of these in Goose Creek within the last 2 years, you really should make an attempt to do so.

Any questions about Life-to-Eagle training can be directed to Brad Scales ... [MSVA\\_Tenor@yahoo.com](mailto:MSVA_Tenor@yahoo.com); or 703-850-6679.

## Council / National News

Council Website: [www.NCACBSA.org](http://www.NCACBSA.org)

### CLIMBOREE 2023



The National Capital Area Council and Mountaineer Area Council will host the Climboree 2023 at Camp Mountaineer near Morgantown, WV on the long holiday weekend from October 6 to October 9, 2023.

\$30 per participant for a weekend of tent camping and adventure. Additional fees for shooting and cooking programs. We will not provide meals.

Register at: <https://scoutingevent.com/082-Climboree>



### CLIMB NCAC!



Enjoy the adventure of outdoor climbing on real rock. For \$75 per equipment kit per day, eight participants per session can climb fully-equipped under the supervision of at least two council-trained instructors.

Leaders may schedule two sessions in a day. Roped climbing on natural rock is age-appropriate for Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, and Venturers. Webelos may rappel.

Climb at Great Falls, Carderock, Sugarloaf Mountain, Annapolis Rock, Wolf Rock and many other local favorites. Complete requirements for the Climbing and Camping merit badges and the Ranger Mountaineering elective.

This program is available throughout the year. Contact the Climbing Committee at [NCAC.Climbing@gmail.com](mailto:NCAC.Climbing@gmail.com) or simply click [here](#).

## ★ Here's How You Can Help People, Scouting Families in Maui After Devastating Fires



During the second week in August, wildfires ravaged the Hawaiian Islands — predominantly Maui — consuming thousands of buildings and leaving more than 100 people dead.

Scouts in the Aloha Council jumped into action. They found and set up a hospital bed for a man whose house burned down. They collected food, clothing and supplies. They built bulletin boards to help with communication in the devastated city of Lahaina.

Scouts help people in need. It's what they do.

But sometimes, in disasters, Scouting families need help, too.

### How you can help

All the den leaders and most of the families in Pack 363 of Lahaina lost their homes and businesses in the fires. Still, the pack helped with relief efforts, unloading supplies for others.

The Aloha Council set up a [donation page](#) for Scouting families and supplies.

You can go on the [Aloha Council's website](#) to donate to the cause, or you can view its Amazon wishlist to purchase needed supplies. You can also use the graphic below to share with others.

Additionally, you can help the council by clicking on its [campaigns page](#), as many of its fall fundraising efforts have been canceled.

### Ongoing efforts

Soon after the fires, the Aloha Council opened Camp Maluhia to serve as a shelter for victims, providing a safe place and resources after being displaced.

The council and Scouts organized a trading post of supplies, which they sorted to be distributed to those in need. Girls Troop 180 of Makawao collected gift cards to be handed out to families.

Troop 100 of Kula worked with the VFW Post in Kihei to unload donations. Troop 40 of Wailuku went to its local Scout office to sort out supplies. Pack 12 of Kealahou set up a storefront drop-off to collect supplies. Troop 325 of Honolulu collected, sorted and packed three large cargo ship containers with supplies.

Boys Troop 18, girls Troop 180 and Pack 18 of Makawao built bulletin boards that were set up in Lahaina. They used their STEM knowledge in the boards' design to ensure the boards could withstand the wind.

These are just a few examples of how Scouts in Hawaii are helping. Scouts in other states are helping, too. We shared a story about Scouts in Las Vegas raising \$8,000 in just 72 hours.





## BSA Releases Video, Discussion Guide for Suicide Prevention Month



In recognition of Suicide Prevention Month, the BSA has released a video and discussion guide designed to be used at a September meeting of any of the BSA's programs for older youth: Scouts BSA units, Venturing crews, Sea Scout ships and Exploring posts.

The video and ensuing discussion is designed to take 15-20 minutes and could take place during one of the gatherings you already have planned for September.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health agencies observe Suicide Prevention Month each September. It's a time to raise awareness about suicide as a serious public health problem, and to educate youth on resources that are available to them should they feel like they need help.

Suicide is the second-leading cause of death for America's teenagers, behind accidents and ahead of homicides.

According to the CDC, suicide rates increased by approximately 36% between 2000–2021. Suicide was responsible for 48,183 deaths in 2021, which is about one death every 11 minutes.

The good news is that suicide is preventable. Treatment is available for suicidal thoughts, depression and other mental health concerns if you just know where to look.

### **What is in the BSA's video?**

The video is a 10-minute dramatic reenactment in which young actors depict the type of real-life conversations and interactions that can happen with young people who are having thoughts of self-harm.

The video is designed to be viewed in a group setting, with a post-viewing discussion facilitated by an adult. It is not meant to be viewed by a youth in a standalone viewing experience, and it is not meant to be viewed by a group of Scouts without the use of the discussion guide. The post-viewing, adult-facilitated discussion is required to put much of what the youth just watched into perspective.

"The following story deals with the agonizing subject of peer suicide," says the voiceover that opens the video. "You'll see how timely intervention can prevent a tragic outcome."

The video then shows a period in the life of a young person named Maria who's going through a difficult time in her life. We see her give away some research documents that she's worked long and hard on. We see her feeling helpless in her own home as her parents get into an argument. We see her talking to a teacher who's concerned about her grades, and then a counselor who's concerned about her not qualifying for a college scholarship.

Eventually, she becomes ineligible to play on the school basketball team, and one of her friends, Rick, becomes overwhelmed and doesn't know how to help her.

The video asks viewers to think about how they would respond if they were to encounter a similar situation.

If you'd like to download the video so you can show it to a room full of Scouts without worrying about a spotty internet connection, you can do that [here](#).



## Cub Scout Camping and NCAC Approved Campgrounds



Cub Scout Packs are allowed to do overnight family camping as a Pack. They need to have at least one leader with BALOO training and the online Hazardous Weather training. There is no requirement to camp with another Scout BSA unit. However, they need to get Council approval if they camp with another unit with a different Charter Organization.

Webelos and AOLS are the only ones who can do camping as a Den but need the same adult leader training and follow YPT which includes only registered adults on the trip.

For additional information see the updated Guidelines at [Camping | Boy Scouts of America \(scouting.org\)](https://www.scouting.org)

Here is the link to the [NCAC approved campsites](#).



## Cub Scout Packs can Camp up to Two Consecutive Nights



Effective Sept. 1, 2023, Cub Scout packs who are conducting their own overnight camping activities may now camp up to two consecutive nights.

This is a change from the earlier policy on pack unit-coordinated camping, which was previously limited to single overnight experiences.

The updated policy also applies to Webelos and Arrow of Light dens, who can now conduct campouts for up to two consecutive nights.

Here's what you need to know.

### What does unit-coordinated camping mean?

A unit-coordinated campout is one that is entirely planned and executed by the leaders and parents in a Cub Scout pack, and not by the unit's district or council. That means the pack or unit adults are solely responsible for organizing transportation and activities at the campout, and ensuring that all BSA rules are followed. This includes having at least one registered adult leader trained in Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO) who oversees the planning and is in attendance for the pack campout.

### What is BALOO?

BALOO is a 1½-day course designed to be an introduction to the Cub Scout outdoor program. It consists of an online pre-requisite component in addition to an overnight hands-on event. Participants will learn BSA's Cub Scout-level camping policies along with the necessary tools to help units carry out a successful camping experience. While only one adult at minimum needs BALOO, it's a great idea to have multiple adults take it. The more adults who know BALOO, the better!

### What else do I need to do as I plan a unit-coordinated campout?

Make sure the location where you will be camping is approved by your local council. If you're camping at a popular park or public camping area, chances are it's already approved, but you should check with your local council to be sure.



## Jamboree-on-the-Air



Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world. It is held annually the third full weekend in October. JOTA uses amateur radio to link Scouts and hams around the world, around the nation, and in your own community. This jamboree requires no travel, other than to a nearby amateur radio operator's ham shack. Many times you can find the hams will come to you by setting up a station at your Scout camporee, at the park down the block, or perhaps at a ham shack already set up at your council's camp.

### Tell Me More

Scouts of any age can participate, from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and Venturers, including girls. Once at the ham radio station, the communication typically involves talking on a microphone and listening on the station speakers. However, many forms of specialized communication may also be taking place, such as video communication, digital communication (much like sending a message on your smartphone but transmitted by radio), or communication through a satellite relay or an earth-based relay (called a repeater). The exchanges include such information as name, location (called QTH in ham speak), Scout rank, age, and hobbies. The stations you'll be communicating with can be across town, across the country, or even around the world! The World Scout Bureau reported that the 2017 JOTA-JOTI had over 1.5 million Scout participants from more than 160 countries.

### When Is It?

Jamboree-on-the-Air is held the third weekend in October. There are no official hours, so you have the whole weekend to make JOTA contacts. The event officially starts Friday evening during the JOTA Jump Start and runs through Sunday evening.

### How Can I Participate as a Scout?

Contact your local Scout council and see what may already be planned in your area. You can also contact a local ham radio operator or a local amateur radio club. You can find a searchable database of clubs at [www.arrl.org/find-a-club](http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club). This website is operated by the American Radio Relay League, the national association for amateur radio, which is cooperating closely with the BSA on JOTA and many other activities.

Your local club may be able to direct you to its planned JOTA activities. These can include ham stations set up at camporees or other events. Or, if there are no planned activities, you can either work with them to get something set up or arrange to visit a local radio operator's ham shack at a scheduled time to participate in JOTA.

### How Can I Participate as an Amateur Radio Operator?

Contact your local Scout council and see what may already be planned in your area and how you can help. You can find your council using the Council locator.

If nothing is currently planned, or if current plans aren't reaching your area, you can work with the council or a local unit (pack, troop, crew) to set up a JOTA station or arrange for visits to your ham shack. You can also participate just by making QSOs with the many JOTA stations that will be on the air. A good resource to find a local Scout unit is the Be-A-Scout website at .



## Jamboree-on-the-Internet



Jamboree-on-the-Internet, or JOTI, is an annual international Scouting event sponsored by the World Organization of the Scout Movement. Each year, during the third weekend in October, Scouts from around the world gather online to learn about other cultures and the activities in which other Scouts participate. They communicate with each other using Internet-enabled devices such as computers, laptops, tablets, and mobile phones. Last year, JOTA-JOTI had over 1.5 million Scouts and leaders participate in more than 160 countries!

### Who Can Participate?

Scouts of any age can take part, from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts and Venturers. Scouts can participate at home with the help of an adult, or they can participate in a Scout group at a council event. JOTI is an economical way to participate in an international jamboree. The event allows Scouts to “meet” other Scouts from around the world through the Internet and share more information than just “Hi.” The exchanges can include such information as name, location of event, Scout rank, age, and hobbies. Some exchanges lead to long-lasting friendships. JOTI participation fulfills requirements for Tiger and Arrow of Light adventures, the Citizenship in the World merit badge, and the International Spirit Award.



## Wreaths Across America



This year, National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, December 16, 2023. Join the more than two million volunteers and supporters who will gather to Remember, Honor and Teach at more than 4,000 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

You can also sponsor a veteran's wreath in honor of or in memory of a loved one who served in our armed forces.

For information on how to volunteer or sponsor a wreath go to <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/>





## V3 HIKE-O-REE 2023



The 32nd Annual V3 (originally named for Venturing, Varsity, and Venture) Hike-o-ree will be held October 28-30, 2023, at the Northern Virginia 4-H Educational Center, Front Royal, VA. Registration is limited to trail capacities of the fifteen trails. The Hike-o-ree is open to all Venturing Crews, Sea Scout Ships, and Scouts BSA Troops. Units must form trail crews consisting of no more than 12 members, including at least two adults. If a unit has more than 12 simply form another crew (with proper adult leadership). The minimum age to participate is 13.

BSA units will need to comply with the Guide to Safe Scouting, etc., and meet the safety requirements therein. All BSA Scouts and Scouters that hike must bring a current BSA Annual Health and Medical Record, parts A, and B, and meet the weight limits on part C.

Trail crews will be assigned a hike based on the preferences indicated in their registration. All hikes are approximately ten miles in length and range in difficulty from moderate (1500 foot change in elevation) to super strenuous (2600 foot change in elevation). Other Hike-o-ree activities include a Friday night opening rally, a Saturday night High Adventure Rally, and a service project on Sunday morning. Crews receive their Hike-o-ree t-shirts Saturday night.

The Hike-o-ree is intended to be an introduction to backpacking and shakedown. Therefore, camping at the 4-H Center is BACKPACKING style using ONLY backpacking equipment. Bring ONLY what you can carry in your backpack. Come prepared to cook outdoors; bring a trail tarp. Do not bring chuck boxes, coolers, Dutch ovens, propane tanks, camp lanterns, etc.!!

**Registration** on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS on the BSA National Capital Area Council website.

Unit deposit is required to reserve a particular hike not later than October 7, 2023. After you register for a hike and pay your deposit, you will be sent a confirmation email with the leader's package and detailed information about the hike you have selected.

Because of the lead-time required to produce the t-shirts, the final date to provide shirt numbers and sizes (S, M, L, XL, 2XL) is October 14. No additional orders can be taken after that date. Submit payment and final shirt orders online on BSA National Capital Area Council website.

The cost of the Hike-o-ree is \$30.00 per participant.

For additional information contact:

Joe Flaig, (703) 250-9791 (H), [jwflaig@aol.com](mailto:jwflaig@aol.com)

Dominick Caridi, (703) 625-4196, [dscscouting@aol.com](mailto:dscscouting@aol.com)



## October 2019 – Den Organization



An organizing principle is a core assumption from which everything else around it can derive a classification or a value so this month we're going to figure out the structure of a den...you know – how to get it organized. Joining us for the discussion is Barb Perez, Development Director in the National Capital Area Council.

Podcast: <https://podcast.scouting.org/cubcast/2019/october-2019-den-organization/>





## National/International Recognition Days

# 2023

## SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Here is a listing of some of the things we can celebrate this month. To get a full list of the Day, Week, or Month celebrations for the month go to [National Day Calendar](#)

Sept 1 – [National No Rhyme \(nor Reason\) Day](#)

Sept 2 – [National Hummingbird Day](#)

Sept 4 – [Labor Day](#)

Sept 5 – [National Cheese Pizza Day](#)

Sept 6 – [National Read a Book Day](#)

Sept 7 – [National Neither Rain nor Snow Day](#)

Sept 8 – [Star Trek Day](#)

Sept 9 – [National Teddy Bear Day](#)

Sept 10 – [National Grandparents Day](#)

Sept 12 – [National Chocolate Milkshake Day](#)

Sept 13 – [National Kids Take Over the Kitchen Day](#)

Sept 14 – [National Virginia Day](#)

Sept 15 – [National Tackle Kids Cancer Day](#)

Sept 16 – [National Play-doh Day](#)

Sept 17 – [National Dance Day](#)

Sept 18 – [National Cheeseburger Day](#)

Sept 19 – [Talk Like a Pirate Day](#)

Sept 20 – [Pepperoni Pizza Day](#)

Sept 21 – [National Pecan Cookie Day](#)

Sept 22 – [National Ice Cream Cone Day](#)

Sept 23 – [National Brave Day](#)

Sept 24 – [National Punctuation Day](#)

Sept 25 – [National Family Day](#)

Sept 26 – [National Johnny Appleseed Day](#)

Sept 27 – [National Chocolate Milk Day](#)

Sept 28 – [National Good Neighbor Day](#)

Sept 29 – [National VFW Day](#)

Sept 30 – [Orange Shirt Day](#)



## Get-Started Guide for New Scouting Leaders



The people at *Scouting* magazine have been where you are, and they understand just how intimidating the job can be. So they created a [handy guide](#) to help you through the first months of your Scouting career. Half of the tips in it stem from their own experience; the other half come from Scouters across the country who responded to survey questions on their Facebook page.

## Training Opportunities

### My.Scouting.org



The My.Scouting.org portal is a critical resource for registered adults and unit leaders. It provides access to individual and unit account information, training records, reports, and metrics. If you are an adult member of Scouting, you should have an a My.Scouting.org account to enable you to perform the following:

For individuals: a.) access and update your contact and personal information directly in the BSA national database. b.) take the required online Youth Protection Training course and print a certificate. c.) take online BSA training courses you need to understand the Scouting program and position specific training required to be considered fully “Trained”. (Refer to the NCAC event calendar for additional in person training and outdoor training such as BALOO, Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills, BCOLS, and Powder Horn training).

For Units: a.) access and download the official unit roster maintained in the BSA national database. b.) monitor and track completion of YPT position specific training at a unit level. c.) respond to and track leads from BeAScout.org inquiries using “Invitation Manager” and processing online applications using “Application Manager”.

Note: Adding individuals to Scout Book does not officially register an individual in Scouting, this must be done through processing an online application using “Invitation Manager” and “Application Manager”.

For additional information regarding My.Scouting.org contact your District Executive or Unit Commissioner.

### Wood Badge



Wood Badge is advanced Scout leader training that began in 1919 by Lord Baden-Powell, founder of Scouting and Wood Badge’s first director. It came to America in 1948 and has been updated to reflect current BSA policies and programs. Incorporating the best techniques available, Wood Badge has become the most advanced leadership training course in Scouting!

Wood Badge is the highest level of Scout leadership training and provides you with the tools to be a superior leader. The leadership skills taught are for leaders from all Scouting areas including Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Venturing and the district and council. The 1st half of the course utilizes a classroom environment and practical exercises to teach the essentials of leadership. You’ll learn what makes leadership work for you in Scouting and your personal life. The 2nd half offers classroom and outdoor experiences to help you learn the application of leadership skills. Finally, you will write and complete a “Ticket”. The “Ticket” consists of five written goals. These goals connect your new leadership knowledge to your role in Scouting.

Any Scouter who has attended basic training for their registered position and serves in a leadership role in Scouting or in a position that directly supports a unit can attend.

To register go to: [www.ncacbsa.org/training/wood-badge/](http://www.ncacbsa.org/training/wood-badge/)



## Goose Creek / Powhatan District Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills - IOLS



**When:** Saturday & Sunday, October 14 - 15, 2023

**Where:** Camp Highroad - Locust Grove Campsite  
21164 Steptoe Hill Rd, Middleburg, VA 20117

IOLS is the required outdoor training for Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters. The skills taught are based on the outdoor skills found in The Scouts BSA Handbook. The course focuses on building confidence and competence in leaders conducting outdoor camping experiences.

**NOTE:** This course is being offered jointly by Goose Creek and Powhatan Districts for participants from both Districts. However, those from other locations are also welcome.

**SCHEDULE:** Saturday, October 14, 2023 – Registration and check-in 7:30 am. Training runs all day Saturday and continues Sunday morning. Camping overnight is part of the course.

Sunday, October 15 – Morning training, break camp and check-out by 1:00 pm. The entire course is outdoors, rain or shine.

**COST:** The registration fee is \$45 and covers camping fees, training materials, insurance, and food. Participants will be formed into patrols on site. Overnight camping is part of the instruction. Participants **MUST** attend the entire course to successfully complete the training.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION & PAYMENT:** Register and pay online on this [IOLS website](#) via credit/debit card or e-check. No onsite registration is available.

**ADDITIONAL NOTE:** A BALOO (Cub Scout Family Camping) course will be held concurrently with this class at the same facility. More details: <https://scoutingevent.com/082-74794>

**CLASS SIZE:** Maximum of 30 participants. Registration may close early if maximum capacity is reached.

**PREREQUISITES:** Prior completion of YPT and Position Specific Training is required. These additional training courses are recommended as they will be referred to during the training: Hazardous Weather, Safe Swim Defense, and Safety Afloat.

**REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:** Class A Scout Leader Uniform, full camping gear for an overnight stay (tent, ground cloth, flashlight, sleeping bag and pad, sturdy shoes, change of clothes, rain gear and coat/jacket/hat, water bottle, camp chair).

**MEALS:** will be provided. Please provide any dietary restrictions.

**BSA Annual Health & Medical Record:** You must bring a copy of your Annual Health & Medical Record, Parts A and Part B to the class. This is required to attend the training.

**NCAC Cancellation Policy:** Generally, there are only certain conditions where a refund for this event will be issued. Refer to the Standard Cancellation Policy, found by clicking the link at the bottom of this page, Cancellation/Refund Policy.

For questions or more information, contact Course Director Shawn Carroll at [shawn.carroll@goosecreekdistrict.org](mailto:shawn.carroll@goosecreekdistrict.org) or 703.608.0097.

## Back Country Outdoor Leader Skills (BCOLS)



Back Country Outdoor Leader Skills (BCOLS) is an optional course offered to adult leaders who have completed the required training in their Scouting program. This course assists Scouters working with youth in the backcountry by providing the skills necessary to conduct a safe and risk-managed high adventure program in venues outside those supported by BSA infrastructure. It has been continuously designed to address new and emerging issues, techniques, and gear.

BCOLS has three key goals:

- Provide adult leaders with an understanding of safety and risk management issues in the back country environment.
- Expose adult leaders to interpersonal, small group dynamics, and leadership models consistent with National syllabi and curricula.
- Familiarize adult leaders with the planning processes, skills, and equipment necessary to a successful back country adventure.

BCOLS consists of two parts:

- One day-long classroom session  
 Working Together — covers needs and characteristics of the age group; discusses group dynamics and the interpersonal skills needed to build and maintain a high-performance team.  
 Trek Planning and Preparation — covers the detailed preparation and planning that is necessary to a successful Trek and includes risk management, Leave No Trace principles, and discussion and displays of the personal and crew equipment used for Trekking, as well as other Trek tools.
- Two-day weekend outdoor session provides a mix of skill presentations and hands-on practice. Activities include Leave No Trace camping skills, problem solving through initiative games, the use of bear bags/canisters, equipment maintenance, stove maintenance, water treatment, menu planning and trail cooking (and clean-up), terrain awareness, health and safety and personal hygiene issues, hands-on land navigation, and trail meditations.

Requirements for attending BCOLS:

- Be registered members of the Boy Scouts of America and age 18 or older.
- Have completed the basic position-specific training courses for their Scouting role.
- 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.

Both Session Must be Attended to get credit for the Course.

Class Room Session: Saturday September 23, 2023 at Heritage Presbyterian Church 8503 Fort Hunt Road Alexandria, VA 22308

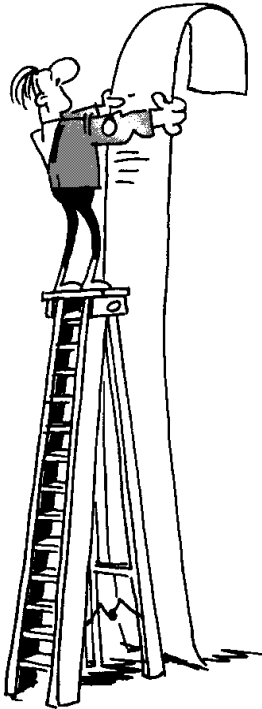
Weekend Session : Saturday October 21 thru Sunday October 22, 2023 at Camp Big Mac 12647 Moss Hollow Road Markham, VA 22643

QUESTIONS?

For information about specific courses, contact Course Coordinator, Shawn Carroll at [Shawn.carroll@yahoo.com](mailto:Shawn.carroll@yahoo.com)

Registration opens May 12: <https://scoutingevent.com/082-70527> .

# District Calendar



**September 2023**

- 4 Labor Day
- 13 Roundtable
- 13 OA Chapter Meeting
- 14 Commissioner Mtg
- 25 School Holiday
- 27 District Committee
- 30 **Webelos-o-ree**

**October 2023**

- 9 School Holiday
- 11 Roundtable
- 11 OA Chapter Meeting
- 12 Commissioner Mtg
- 21-22 JOTA/JOTI
- 25 District Committee
- 30-31 School Holiday

**November 2023**

- 1 **OA Election Cycle Begins**
- 4 Scouting for Food (SFF) Notices out
- 7 School Holiday
- 8 Roundtable
- 8 OA Chapter Meeting
- 9 Commissioner Mtg
- 11 SFF Food Pickup
- 18 **Life to Eagle Training**

**December 2023**

- 13 Roundtable
- 13 OA Chapter Meeting
- 14 Commissioner Mtg
- 27 District Committee

**January 2024**

- 10 Roundtable
- 10 OA Chapter Meeting
- 11 Commissioner Mtg
- 15 MLK Jr. Day
- 20 **Life to Eagle Training**
- 22 School Holiday
- 24 District Committee
- 26-28 **Freeze-o-ree**

**February 2024**

- 9-10 Scout Jumuah
- 9 Scout Shabbat
- 11 Scout Sunday
- 14 Roundtable
- 14 OA Chapter Meeting
- 15 Commissioner Mtg
- 19 President's Day
- 28 District Committee

**March 2024**

- 5 Student Holiday
- 8-9 **District Pinewood Derby**
- 13 Roundtable
- 13 OA Chapter Meeting
- 14 Commissioner Mtg
- 25-20 Student Holiday
- 27 District Committee

**April 2024**

- 5 Student Holiday
- 10 Roundtable
- 10 OA Chapter Meeting
- 11 Commissioner Mtg
- 12-14 **Spring Camporee**
- 20 **Life to Eagle Training**
- 24 District Committee

**May 2024**

- 8 **Program Launch**
- 8 OA Chapter Meeting
- 9 Commissioner Mtg
- 22 District Committee
- 27 Memorial Day

**June 2024**

- 12 Roundtable
- 12 OA Chapter Meeting
- 13 Commissioner Mtg
- 17-24 **Day Camp**
- 17-23 **Twilight Camp**
- 26 District Committee

**July 2024**

- 4 Fourth of July

**August 2024**

- 14 Roundtable
- 14 OA Chapter Meeting
- 15 Commissioner Mtg
- 28 District Committee