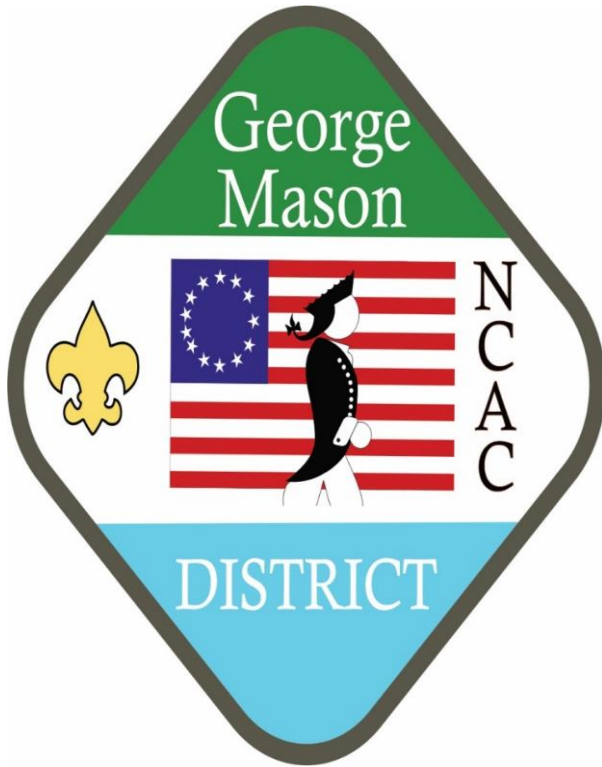




GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

"The most worth-while thing is to try to put happiness into the lives of others." 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. 1/14/2021 – Virtual:
Roundtable Meeting at 7:30 pm

NCAC University of Scouting – 2/27/2021

USEFUL LINKS:

[NCAC Council Website](#)

[National BSA](#)

[National Order of the Arrow](#)

wipit470.org



GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL

COVID Guidance for NCAC Units Chartered in Virginia

As of December 10, 2020 Virginia's Governor Northam has tightened COVID -19 restrictions related to group gatherings:

"Reduction in social gatherings: All social gatherings must be limited to 10 individuals, down from the current cap of 25 people. Social gatherings include, but are not limited to, parties, celebrations, or other social events, regardless of whether they occur indoors or outdoors. This does not apply to religious services, employment settings, or educational settings. Restaurants and retail stores are already governed by strict social distancing requirements, and are not included in this limit."

Last week the Commonwealth of Virginia issued new COVID-19 directives designed to reduce the rate of community transmission of the virus. To ensure compliance with these new restrictions, until such time as new directives are issued, there should be no overnight Scouting events at the unit, district, or council levels in Virginia. In addition, Scouting meetings and activities should be organized in smaller cohorts to keep group sizes below 10 participants. Please note this applies to outdoor as well as indoor meetings or events, and that non-participating adults or other family members who will be at the site also count towards this total.

For all leaders in National Capital Area Council, please ensure your unit continues to operate within state and local guidelines that apply to your chartered organization and to any venues where you will be holding meetings or events. If you are unsure if your unit activities are in accordance with local guidelines, please discuss the matter with your chartered organization and unit committee.

There has been very encouraging news recently about our fight against this pandemic, and we are hopeful it means we are near the end of this disruption to our Scouting program. Thank you for your continued support, and for helping to keep our Scouts safe and healthy during this challenging time.

9190 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20814
P: 301.530.9360 | F: 301.564.3648
www.NCACBSA.org
www.BeAScout.org

Prepared. For Life.™



"The most important object in Scout training is to educate, not instruct." Baden-Powell



GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

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Please Welcome our new George Mason District Chairman - John Kilduff



It gives me great pleasure to serve as the new District Chair for George Mason District. I am humbled to have been asked to serve. It is especially challenging to serve at this time of struggle for survival of the Scouting movement and the health and well-being of our families.

I moved to Falls Church in July of this year after having lived in Middletown, NJ for the last 40 years. My Scouting goes back to the years when I was growing up in Rockville Centre, NY where I was a Cub Scout, Boy Scout and earned my Eagle rank and then was an Explorer in Eatontown, NJ. Later, when my son became a Scout, I started to get involved as a leader and served our troop as ASM, SM and Troop Committee Chair. After selling our family business I changed careers and became a District Executive for Thunderbird District in Monmouth Council. After retiring in 2011, I became more active as a volunteer Scouter and served on my district committee as finance vice chair and district chair. At the council level I served on the training, camping/properties, and membership/alumni committees. In addition to Scouting, I am an avid runner, walker, reader, and park trail volunteer.

I hope to be able to talk and meet with you soon to get to know you, your vision for Scouting and what you would like to see the district accomplish. My vision for

leadership is to help others do their Scouting job by assisting in defining goals and plans of action and then removing the obstacles to getting the job done. Please feel free to reach out to me and share your thoughts. I will need your help in getting to know the district. I am dedicated to bringing a great Scouting program to as many of our youth as possible. Let us work together to achieve the mission of the BSA.

Scouting is the only youth program I know of that continues to operate in the present environment of Covid-19 restrictions. We continue to provide a program for our Scouts, service to our community, and opportunities for youth leadership. Let's continue to be flexible and innovative in finding ways to continue Scouting for the next few months until we can safely go back to our more usual Scouting activities.



GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

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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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Restart Scouting Checklist

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

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

S = Supervision

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

A = Assessment

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

F = Fitness and Skill

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

E = Equipment and Environment

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

SAFE ≠ Risk-Free

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Before you gather:

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

As you gather:

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

When you get home:

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

BIN 680-693
June 2020



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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

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Calendar of Events – Links included if available

01/18/2021 – NYLT Winter Seminar #1 5PM See flyer below

01/26/2021 – NYLT Winter Seminar #2 5PM See flyer below

02/20/2021 – Virtual Life to Eagle Seminar 1-4:30PM On-line registration; [REGISTER HERE](#)

02/27/2021 - University of Scouting, Alexandria, VA (Registration should open Jan 8)

March 2021 - District Pinewood Derby

March 2021 - District Merit Badge Day

04/2021 - Eagle Recognition Dinner

04/2021 - District Court of Honor

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

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

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

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

10/1/2021 – Charter Renewal system open

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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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 |

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GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021

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Sharpen your leadership skills this winter.

Because our full NYLT Winter course has been postponed, the youth staff will deliver two online seminars. These free 50-minute zoom webinars are not substitutes for NYLT but will help Scouts explore topics relevant to their development as leaders.

NYLT Winter Seminar #1

Grow Your Enthusiasm... and Retain Your Scouts!

Learn how to harness your Enthusiasm to keep your fellow Scouts engaged and involved. We will also share new tips and tricks to take advantage of the latest updates in zoom.

NYLT Staff will offer this live 50-minute webinar on

Monday, January 18th, 2021 @ 5pm

The event is FREE, but space is limited. Early registration recommended.

Winter Leadership Seminar presented by NYLT staff

FREE Registration



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NYLT Winter Seminar #2

Strengthening your Program

We're going to talk about steps youth leaders can take in their Units to create fun and effective programs. We'll explore how to explore character development through an interesting themed campout. We'll also talk about making the most of youth leadership roles.

NYLT Staff will offer this live 50-minute webinar on

Tuesday, January 26th, 2021 @ 5pm

The event is FREE, but space is limited

Early registration recommended

Winter Leadership Seminar

presented by NYLT staff

FREE Registration



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NCAC University of Scouting – 2/27/2021

Purpose of the University of Scouting – The *"University of Scouting"* is a supplemental training opportunity for all adult Scout leaders. It is the only time during the year where you can find, all in one place, the widest variety of training opportunities in all program areas (*Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouting, District Operations, and Council*). Whether you are new to the program or a veteran of many years, the University provides interesting courses in Cubbing, Scouts, and Adventure and leadership training for Venturing, and Sea Scouting; Electives courses applicable across the Scouting programs, and District operations courses.

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



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GEORGE MASON DISTRICT'S LIFE TO EAGLE SEMINAR

Saturday, 20 February 2021

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

This is a Virtual Seminar

Topics Include:

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

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

HIGHLIGHT: Panel discussion featuring recent Eagle Scouts

SAVE THE DATE – 20 February 2021

Registration is online: [REGISTER HERE](#)

Advance registration is important so that everyone gets the Zoom link.

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

Who should attend:

- Life Scouts or advanced Star Scouts who want to pursue the Eagle Rank
- Eagle advisors, coaches or unit leaders that haven't attended a seminar in two years
- Parents of Scouts working on Eagle or other adults interested in Scouting



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Fall 2020

THE COMMISSIONER

A PUBLICATION FOR COMMISSIONERS AND PROFESSIONALS

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



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Merit Badge Program



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

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

Current Merit Badge Counselors and Guidelines:

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

To become a Merit Badge Counselor:

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

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

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

Margee Egan at margee.egan@gmail.com



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Who in your Troop has the honor to serve and wear these patches?

Who is your Troop's adult Order of the Arrow Troop Advisor? As Scoutmaster you can assign that role. They do need to be an OA member in good standing.



In order to strengthen service to our Troops and promote involvement with the Order of the Arrow, a new Troop leadership position has been created. This adult position will serve as an adviser to the Troop's OA youth Representative and together serve as a link between the Troop and OA Chapter/Lodge. The position is open to any Assistant Scoutmaster who is a current member of the OA Lodge and is appointed by the Scoutmaster/Committee Chair in consulting with their District's OA Chapter Adviser.

The OA Troop Adviser's main function is to promote and support the Order of the Arrow by maintaining communication with the Chapter, advising OA Troop members, and providing a positive image of the Order of the Arrow in the Troop. The OA Chapter will present the leader with the above emblem to wear in recognition of their position and commitment to the Order of the Arrow. The Chapter will maintain a record of all OA Troop Advisers and utilize them as a primary contact with the Troop (in addition to Scoutmaster)

Who is your OA Troop Youth Representative?



Order of the Arrow representatives serve as a communication link between the troop and the local Order of the Arrow lodge. By enhancing the image of the Order as a service arm to the troop, they promote the OA, encourage Scouts to take part in all sorts of camping opportunities, and helps pave the way for older Scouts to become involved in high-adventure programs.

This is a recognized Leadership position for rank advancement and this person can be assigned by your SPL.



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George Mason Order of The Arrow – 2021 Ordeal Initiation

The Fall 2020 Area Initiation was held Oct 2-3 (Friday/Saturday), 2020 at Camp Snyder. Colonial, Patriot, George Mason, Old Dominion and Chain Bridge OA Chapters came together to hold the Virginia Central Area initiation.

We have reserved Camp Snyder for the OA 2021 Initiation Weekend (Ordeal/Brotherhood) date:

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

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

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

- How to download BSA Ids (YouTube Video):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOUCBoamgs0>
- How to downloads and print Unit Charters:
<https://files.constantcontact.com/0778a6dc201/ee304af2-9c84-4143-a42d-c1798715ca01.pdf>



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Religious Emblems Programs

Available to Members of the Boy Scouts of America

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

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

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

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

The Venturing Religious Life Bronze Award is part of the Venturing advancement program. This youth award is not part of the BSA religious emblems programs. For additional information, refer to the *Venturer/Ranger Handbook*, No. 33494, available from local council service centers or the BSA National Distribution Center.

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

How Do We Get Started on These Programs?

1. Youth members must obtain the specific booklet for their religion.
2. Parents must review the program guidelines.
3. Families should talk to their religious leaders and show them the booklet before beginning any program.
4. The youth member needs to complete the requirements, obtain the proper signatures, and order the emblem.

Interested in making a presentation on the religious emblems?

Promotional resources (including a DVD and scripts) are available from the BSA (www.scouting.org/awards/religiousawards) and P.R.A.Y. (www.praypub.org).

Contact the following for more information:

<https://www.praypub.org/data/sites/1/media/partnerships/bsa/DutytoGod2014.pdf>

This program is for all BSA Programs: Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturing Crews



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Frequently Asked Questions

What are the religious emblems programs?

The religious emblems programs are programs created by the various religious groups to encourage youth to grow stronger in their faith. The religious groups—not the Boy Scouts of America—have created the religious emblems programs themselves.

The Boy Scouts of America has approved of these programs and allows the recognition to be worn on the official uniform, but each religious organization develops and administers its own program.

I have a unit with children of all different faiths. How can I include the religious emblems programs for my unit?

The religious emblems programs should be presented to youth members and their families as an optional program for them to complete through their religious organization. Religious instruction should always come from the religious organization, not from the unit leader. Parents need to be informed of these programs and told where to get the information for their particular faith. Interested in making a presentation on the religious awards? Find sample scripts at www.praypub.org.

Do boys and girls participate in the same program?

It depends on the religion. Some religions have created programs that are used by both boys and girls. Other religions have created programs for members of separate youth agencies (i.e., Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., and Camp Fire Boys and Girls). Please check the specific eligibility requirements for each religious emblems program.

Do the youth have to belong to a religious institution?

It depends on the religion. Please check the eligibility requirements for your particular religious program.

Why doesn't my religious institution know about the religious emblems programs?

Although the religious bodies at the national level created the religious emblems programs, the local religious institution may not be aware of these programs. It may be helpful to write for more information or even obtain a copy of the curriculum to give to your religious leader.

If the religious emblems program for my faith has more than one level (for the different grade levels), may my child earn all of these recognitions?

Yes. Members can earn all levels of their religious emblems program. However, they must be in the appropriate program guidelines when they start and complete each level (they may not go backward and earn younger programs).

How is the emblem presented?

The emblem should be presented in a meaningful ceremony, preferably in the youth member's religious institution. Some emblems come with a sample presentation ceremony.

How long does it take to complete a program?

It depends on the program. Some programs may take three or four months, others longer.

Where is the emblem worn on the uniform?

The universal religious square knot is worn over the left shirt pocket of the uniform. Cloth badges and embroidered square knots are representative of the medal award. When a cloth badge is worn, the medal award is not worn.

How do we get started on these programs?

First, youth members must obtain the specific booklet for their religion. This booklet will contain information on all the lessons and

service projects that they will need to complete. Each member needs to have his or her own booklet to document progress. Some religions also provide adult manuals for counselors and mentors. Check with your local council to see if it stocks these booklets in its store, or contact the religious organization directly (addresses and phone numbers are listed in this brochure).

Second, parents must review the specific guidelines for their particular program; age/grade requirements vary from program to program. Some programs require that the youth be an official "member" of the local religious institution, others may not. Each program determines who may serve as counselor (some require clergy, others allow parents or other family members). Be sure to look at specific eligibility guidelines!

Third, families should talk to their religious leaders and show them the booklet before beginning any program. Most of the religious emblems programs require that they be completed under the auspices of that religious organization, and many require the signature of the local religious leader. Again, check the specific eligibility requirements for your religious program.

Fourth, the member needs to complete the requirements, obtain the proper signatures, and follow the instructions to order the emblem/award. (These emblems are not available in your local council.) The emblem can be presented at any time of the year and should be presented in a meaningful ceremony, preferably in the member's religious institution.

Who may serve as counselor?

It depends on the program. Some programs require clergy to serve as counselor, others allow a parent or family member. Please check the specific guidelines for your religious program.

How do I order the recognition items?

Each religious program has its own emblem. Follow the instructions in your recognition guidelines because the emblems come from different places and require submission of different information. These emblems will not be available in your local council!

What is the adult religious recognition program?

An adult religious recognition award is presented by nomination only. The recognition is presented to worthy adults for their outstanding service to youth both through their religious institution and one of the national youth agencies. Recipients of these awards are unaware that they are being nominated. They are nominated to receive an award by submitting the required application, letters of recommendation, and resume. Please check eligibility requirements for specific awards.

Which religious emblem square knot should I wear?

Cloth, silver knot on purple, No. 5007, may be worn by youth or adult members who earned the knot as a youth, above left pocket. Cloth, purple on silver, No. 5014, may be worn by adult members presented with the recognition, above left pocket. Adults may wear both knots if they satisfy qualifying criteria. (See the *Guide to Awards and Insignia*, No. 33066.)



Only one youth and one adult knot is worn, but any combination of devices representing the program in which a religious emblem was earned may be worn on the same knot. (See *Cub Scout device*, No. 926; *Webelos Scout device*, No. 932; *Boy Scout device*, No. 927; and *Venturer device*, No. 930.)



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

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

Armenian Apostolic Church of America
 Saint Mesrob

Buddhist
 Metta | Sangha | Bodhi

Baha'i
 Unity of Mankind | Unity of Mankind | Unity of Mankind | Unity of Mankind

Eastern Orthodox
 Saint George | Alpha Omega | Chi Rho | Prophet Elias

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

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

Baptist
 God and Me | God and Family | God and Church | God and Life | Good Shepherd

Churches of Christ
 Loving Servant | Joyful Servant | Good Servant | Giving Servant | Faithful Servant

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

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

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

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



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General Church of the New Jerusalem
Open Word

Hindu
Dharma Karma

Islamic
Bismillah In the Name of God Allaho Akber

Jain
Live Help Live—Stage I Live Help Live—Stage II
Live Help Live—Stage III Live Help Live—Stage IV Live and Help Live—Gold
Live and Help Live—Silver Live and Help Live—White

Meher Baba
Love for God Compassionate Father

Episcopal
God and Me God and Family God and Church God and Life Saint George

Jewish
Maccabee Aleph Ner Tamid Etz Chaim Shofar

Lutheran
God and Me God and Family God and Church God and Life Lamb

Moravian
God and Country The Order of David Zeisberger

Nazarene
God and Me God and Family God and Church God and Life God and Service

Polish National Catholic Church
Love of God God and Country Bishop Thaddeus F. Zielinski

Presbyterian Church in America
God and Me God and Family God and Church God and Life God and Service

"The most important object in Scout training is to educate, not instruct." Baden-Powell



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Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

God and Me
GOD AND ME

God and Family
GOD AND FAMILY

God and Church
GOD AND CHURCH

God and Life
GOD AND LIFE

God and Service

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

That of God

Spirit of Truth

Friends

Unitarian Universalist

Religion and Me
RELIGION AND ME

Religion and Family
RELIGION AND FAMILY

Living Your Religion
LIVING YOUR RELIGION

Service Chalice

Unity Churches

God in Me
UNITY

Light of God
UNITY

Fillmore Youth

Distinguished Youth Service

Zoroastrian

Good Life
GOOD LIFE

SKU 512879

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512-879 2014 Printing

Protestant/United Church of Christ/Community Churches

God and Me
GOD AND ME

God and Family
GOD AND FAMILY

God and Church
GOD AND CHURCH

God and Life
GOD AND LIFE

God and Service

Roman Catholic/Eastern Catholic

Light of Christ

Parvuli Dei

Ad Altare Dei

Light is Life

Pope Pius XII

Saint George

Salvation Army

God and Me

Silver Crest

God and Family
GOD AND FAMILY

God and Church
GOD AND CHURCH

God and Life
GOD AND LIFE

Scouter's Award

United Methodist

God and Me
GOD AND ME

God and Family
GOD AND FAMILY

God and Church
GOD AND CHURCH

God and Life
GOD AND LIFE

God and Service

United Pentecostal Church International

God and Me
GOD AND ME

God and Family
GOD AND FAMILY

God and Church
GOD AND CHURCH

God and Life
GOD AND LIFE

God and Service