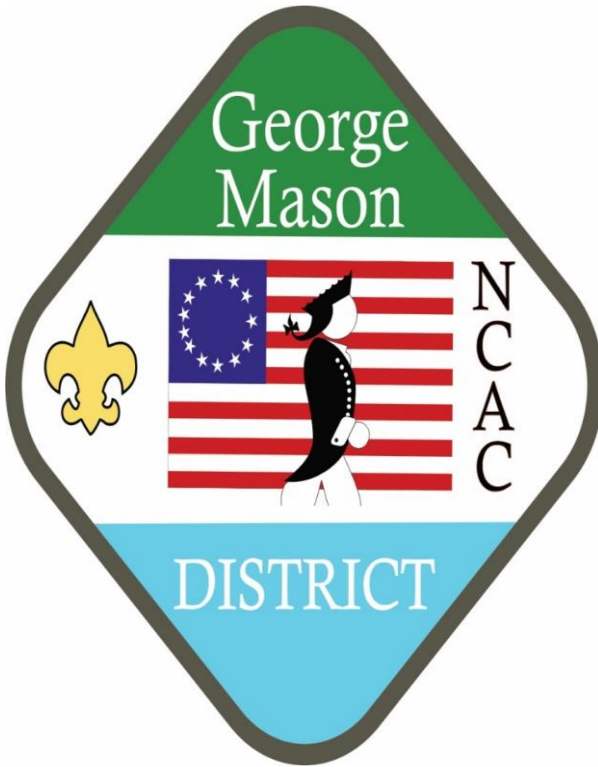




GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

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



Welcome to this edition of the George Mason District Press. We e-mail this out bi-monthly to the BSA registered leaders in George Mason District; unit leaders and merit badge counselors – those who have their current YPT.

George Mason District Leadership and its youth appreciate all of the hard work and commitment you provide to the youth of our community.

Thank you.

Please plan to attend Roundtable Thurs. September 14, 2023 at Thoreau Middle School, Vienna Va.

USEFUL LINKS:

[NCAC Council Web site](#)

[National BSA](#)

[GMD Web Site](#)

[GMD Upcoming Events](#)

[GMD Roundtable \(PW: GMDRT\)](#)

[GMD Training](#)

[National Order of the Arrow](#)

[wipit470.org](#)

[Pay OA Dues](#)



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NCAC sent the below information to all NCAC Key 3 for all Units.

It is important you read this NCAC announcement.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA® NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL

June 30, 2023

Your National Capital Area Council (NCAC) fulfills BSA's mission, *"To prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law."*

NCAC works tirelessly to deliver a safe and high-quality Scouting program to our families in a cost-effective manner. Today it annually costs \$240.00 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 and the volunteer and professional costs required to maintain this campaign has made it impractical to continue this model.

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. Nationwide, we have seen many other local councils successfully transition to a similar fee, while achieving membership growth.

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 next 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.

Additional information about the Participation Fee, including a guide, one-page overview, and FAQ, is available on the NCAC website at: NCACBSA.ORG/PARTICIPATION-FEE.



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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL

Please click to view this short video message by Participation Fee Committee Chair, JP Morgan.



The Scouting movement continues to grow across the National Capital Area Council and we are thankful for your ongoing support.

Yours in Scouting,

Council President Morgan H. Sullivan
Council Commissioner Julia Mae-Shen Lesko
Scout Executive/CEO Mario A. Pèrez



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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

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Calendar of Events – Links included if available

September 2023:

09/08-10/2023 & 10/07-08/2023 Wood Badge Fall 2023 Course [NCAC Wood Badge](#)

09/08-10/2023 - OA Fall Fellowship, Camp Goshen, Goshen, VA

09/09/2023 – Training For Outdoor Ethics Guides, Brandywine, MD 2:30-4:30 [Saturday 9/9/2023 at 2:30-4:30](#)

09/14/2023 – Roundtable, 7:30 PM, Thoreau MS, Vienna, Va

09/22/2023 – 2023 NCAC Golf Classic, Twin Lakes Golf Course, Clifton, VA
<https://donations.scouting.org/#/council/082/appeal/6456>

09/23/2023 & 10/21-22/2023 – BCOLS Training – see flyer below

09/23/2023 – [Scouts Night – Nationals vs Atlanta Braves](#), 1:05pm, Nationals Park

09/23/2023 – [Life to Eagle Seminar](#), St James Catholic Church, Falls Church, VA

09/28/2023 – 10/01/2023 – VA Central Ordeal, Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA

09/30/2023 – [Paddle Craft Safety](#) (Still Water), Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA

October 2023:

10/01/2023 – [Paddle Craft Safety](#) (Moving Water), Riley's Lock, MD

10/06/2023 – 10/09/2023 – Climb-o-ree

10/12/2023 – Roundtable, 7:30 PM, Thoreau MS, Vienna, Va

10/16/2023 & 10/21/2023 – Leave No Trace Trainer Course, Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA <https://scoutingevent.com/082-66417>



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

October 2023 (cont):

10/20/2023 – 10/22/2023 – Fall Camporee, Camp Rock Enon, 292 Rock Enon Springs Rd., Gore, VA

10/21-22/2023 – Jamboree on the Air/Jamboree on the Internet (JOTA/JOTI)

10/27-/29/2023 – Hike-o-ree

10/27-29/2023 – Spooktacular Fall Festival at Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA

<https://scoutingevent.com/082-70773>

10/28/2023 – Scouting for Food Distribute Notice Tags

10/30/2023 – All Units submit 2023 Journey to Excellence forms to their Unit Commissioners

November 2023:

11/01/2023 – 2023-2024 OA Election Season Opens

11/04/2023 – Scouting for Food Collection

11/09/2023 – Scout Expo/Roundtable, 7:00 PM, Thoreau MS, Vienna, Va

11/11/2023 – Veterans Day Flags In, National Memorial Park, Falls Church, VA [Flags in Registration](#)

11/25/2023 – 5K Trot & Ride at Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA

<https://donations.scouting.org/#/council/082/appeal/6529>



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

December 2023:

12/xx/2023 – Peace Light Distribution

12/03/2023 – Training For Outdoor Ethics Guides, Brandywine, MD 2:30-4:30 [Sunday 12/3/2023 at 2:30-4:30](#)

12/06-07/2023 – OA Trade-O-REE, Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA

March 2024:

03/09/2024 – NCAC Commissioner College

03/09/2024 – George Mason District Merit Badge Day, Fairfax Presbyterian Church, Fairfax, Va.

03/23/2024 – George Mason District Pinewood Derby, Fairfax Presbyterian Church, Fairfax, Va.

May 2024:

05/04/2024 – [19th NCAC Scout Orienteering Meet](#), PWD, Triangle, VA



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Chair's Chat

Welcome back from a summer with lots of action. The Scouting world saw lots of summer camping, high adventure outings, national and world jamborees, and many other adventures. I hope you all had great times and built lasting memories.

Now as summer fades, school starts and we resume our regular schedules, we enter the most important time of the year. What is so important? Now is the time when we bring new Scouts into our units and share the benefits of Scouting with new families. Girls and boys join Cub Scouts, grow into Scouts BSA, serve their community along the way and grow into outstanding citizens.

What can you do? As a Pack, make sure you spread the word about your joining events. Make sure you have more than one opportunity for families to join and follow up with your guests and visitors. As an adult, you can share your Scouting experiences with other families and invite them to share in the fun. Also be welcoming to visitors to your Pack and show them the ropes. You can also take on a role in your Pack. They not only need Den leaders but also starters for Pinewood Derbies, emcees for Blue & Gold Dinners, social media influencers to share the story of the Pack and adults to organize advancement awards. As a Scout you can tell your friends about your den & Pack, welcome visitors and make friends with new and prospective Scouts.

Together we can grow the Scouting family in your Den, in your Pack, in your District, and in your Council. Last year you helped us increase our membership in the District by over 3%. Our goal is to do that again this year. Let's spread the word. More Scouts, more leaders, and more fun.

I'll see you on the trail or at a Scout recruiting event soon.

Yours in Scouting,

John Kilduff – George Mason District Chair

George Mason District Chair - 732-610-4284





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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023

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George Mason District Executive's Chat



Welcome back everyone! I certainly had a fun summer and I'm hoping you all did too! As we hop into the recruitment season, I encourage everyone to reach out with any questions and let the Key 3 know if you need any additional support! We want to help and are here to help as best we can! Check out our One Stop Shop on NCAC's website for resources and our resource timeline so we can get everything you need to spread scouting! Round table is also new and improved to maximize time for our unit leaders to bounce ideas off of one another! As we get back into the swing of things, please know I am so happy to be here and that I am just a phone call away and will do the best I can.

Yours in Scouting,

Liz Kohler | George Mason District Executive

NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL
Boy Scouts of America

Serving youth in Fairfax City, Falls Church, & Vienna

9190 Rockville Pike

Bethesda, MD 20814

(301) 214-9147



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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL

NCAC's Membership Resource Request Timeline

A majority of the resources available to our Districts and Units can be found on NCAC's One-Stop-Shop for Membership



At least three (3) weeks' Prior to Unit's Join Scouting Night / Event:

- Requested Facebook Geofenced Advertising (date, location, time, & contact info)
- Requested PeachJar Advertisements (Flyer, Schools, additional info)

At least two (2) weeks' Prior to Unit's Join Scouting Night / Event:

- Submitted Physical Flyer Requests (Color: 10 cents per page)
- Submitted Peer-to-Peer Cards Requests
- Requested Council Recruitment Banners (While resources are available)
- Requested Council Projectors (While resources are available)
- Requested Council Pop-Up Tents (While resources are available)

At least one (1) weeks' Prior to Unit's Join Scouting Night / Event

- Requested Yard Signs
- Requested Parents' Guides
- Requested Paper Applications
- Requested Printed "How-To" Social Media templates
- Requested Pens/Pencils

Please work with your District's leadership to arrange pick-up / drop-off for all the supplies requested from our Council's office. While the timeframes listed above are the minimum length of times needed to fulfill the requests, we strongly advise units to submit their requests as early as possible to ensure all requests made are completed within a timely manner.

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

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National BSA Annual Fees – Goes to BSA National (NCAC Council Participation Fees announced on June 30)

Effective August 1, 2023, the BSA will implement the following national membership fees which were approved by the National Executive Committee:

- **\$80** for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouting participants (\$5 increase)
- **\$60** for all adult volunteers (\$15 increase to provide general liability insurance and enhanced background checks)
- **\$25** one-time joining fee for new program participants in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scouting (Not prorated and no change in fee)
- **\$30** for Scoutreach (Not prorated)
- **\$25** for Merit Badge Counselors (New Fee applies only for Merit Badge Counselors not already registered as leaders)
- **\$50** for Exploring participants Youth & Adult (\$5 increase)
- **\$100** for a unit charter/affiliation fee (no change in fee)
- **\$15** for *Scout Life* magazine

New Annual Membership Fee Process Announced – BSA Will No Longer Prorate Fees for New Members beginning August 1, 2023

- Beginning August 1, 2023, all new youth and adult members who join Scouting will be enrolled in a 12-month membership cycle and BSA will cease prorating fees. Both youth and adults will pay the full annual membership fee and will renew their membership on the anniversary date of joining Scouting. All proration of membership fees will be eliminated. Each registered member of the BSA will receive an email notification with a registration renewal link beginning 60 days before the anniversary date they joined Scouting. Unit leaders will receive a copy of the email and should stay engaged in the membership renewal process just like rechartering.
- It is important to note, existing members will renew their membership during their normal registration/recharter cycle through March 2024. Moving forward all members will renew on their anniversary date.
- Existing members' Anniversary date will be their unit recharter month.
- New members' Anniversary date will be the month they joined.
- This new process will help streamline the rechartering and membership renewal process for units and councils. *Additional information on this membership renewal process will be forthcoming in the very near future.*

These are funds that go directly to NSA National – NONE of these fees go to NCAC.



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Cub Pack Updates from National

Coming soon: Cub Scout packs can camp up to two consecutive nights

By Aaron Derr August 3, 2023 1 Comment Camping, Cub Scouting

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.

This and additional information is on the Scouting Magazine website with more details.

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2023/08/03/coming-soon-cub-scout-packs-can-camp-up-to-two-consecutive-nights/>

Webelos often transition to Scouts BSA during the spring. Here's what you need to know

By Aaron Derr March 9, 2023 3 Comments Cub Scouting, Scouts BSA, Things You Should Know

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2023/03/09/its-webelos-to-scouts-bsa-transition-season-heres-what-you-need-to-know/>



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Unit Key-3 Training

Adult Leaders with direct contact with the Scouts (i.e. Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, etc.) are highly encouraged to become fully "trained". To be "Trained" requires mostly on-line training which is available at your convenience. There is one in-person course that is required for Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters – Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS). Requirements are discussed below.

To be fully Trained for Committee Chairman, Chartering Organization Representative, and New Member Coordinator requires current Youth Protection Training (YPT) and completion of specific on-line courses found at My.Scouting.org. (YPT expires after 2 years. The other on-line training for these jobs does not expire.)

To be fully Trained for Cubmaster:

- Requires current Youth Protection Training (YPT).
- Completion of Cubmaster specific training course available on-line at My.Scouting.org. (This course is also available in-person at various places and on various dates around the Council.) This course does not expire.
- Completion of the Hazardous Weather Course. This course is only available on-line at My.Scouting.org. It expires after 2 years.

To be fully Trained for Scoutmaster:

- Requires current Youth Protection Training (YPT).
- Completion of Scoutmaster specific training course available on-line at My.Scouting.org. (This course is also available in-person at various places and on various dates around the Council.) This course does not expire.
- Completion of the Hazardous Weather Course. This course is only available on-line at My.Scouting.org. It expires after 2 years.
- Completion of Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS). This course is an in-person class only. It requires an overnight camping experience. It is available at various places and on dates around the Council. It may be available at some summer camps. It does not expire.



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Unit Key-3 Training (cont.)

To be fully Trained for **Venturing Crew Advisor**:

- Requires current Youth Protection Training (YPT).

Don't wait until the last minute to schedule your training, get started on it today! On-line courses are at your convenience.

It wouldn't hurt to get your Assistant Scoutmasters and Assistant Cubmasters trained, as they will be required to be trained in 2024.

Please contact me if I can be of assistance.

YIS,

Roy De Lauder

Training Chairman, George Mason District

NCAC



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District Life to Eagle Seminar – September 23



- **Saturday, 23 September 2023**
- **1:00 to 4:00 p.m.**
- **In Person at St. James Catholic Church in Falls Church**
- **Register at:** <https://scoutingevent.com/082-70702>

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

Registration is live now and must be registered by 21 September 2023.

Any questions contact Matt Burns at 703-938-9550 or at gm.advancement@gmail.com.



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New Festival Event!



Come one, come all to the NCAC Spooktacular festival! Fun for all ages and open to the public. The perfect chance to invite friends and family to a Scout event! Zombie run, haunted hay rides, archery, and STEM, plus craft, food and drink vendors!

Friday night is adults 21+ only

Only 13 units will get to camp at Camp Snyder during the Spooktacular. Decorate your site to be a Halloween delight of a fright on the haunted trail! Campers get discounted admission to the Spooktacular and discounted bounce tickets.

Saturday will start with a zombie run.

All day Events include: Haunted hay rides (spookier after dark for older kids), Unlimited bounce village (wrist bands required at additional cost), food and drink vendors, archery, STEM station, craft vendors, and so much more!

Units wishing to camp, bring your decorations and get read to haunt camp Snyder. each registered unit will be given a site to decorate for the haunted trail as well as discounted admission to the festival.



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Training

Local NCAC Leadership Training: [GMD Training](#)

Cub Scout:

- **Cub Leader Position Specific (C40)**
 - [Available on-line \(117 min\)](#)
- **Cub Scout Den Leader Specific (C42)**
 - [Available on-line \(125 min\)](#)
- **Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO;C32)** – BALOO consists of two sessions, an online portion (<https://my.scouting.org>, Menu, My Training, Cub Scouts, Catalog, search on BALOO) that takes 35 minutes and a hands-on overnight session. The overnight sessions are listed below.
 - [10/13/23 – 10/14/23, Huntingtown, MD](#)
 - [10/14/23 – 10/15/23, Middleburg, VA](#)

Scout:

- **Scoutmaster Position Specific Training(S24)**
 - [Available on-line \(192 min\)](#)
- **Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS; S11)**
 - [09/15/23 – 09/16/23, Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA](#)
 - [10/13/23 – 10/14/23, Huntingtown, MD](#)
- **Back Country Outdoor Leadership Skills (BCOLS)**
 - [09/23/2023 \(Alexandria, VA\) & 10/21/2023-10/22/2023 \(Markham, VA\)](#)

Chartering Organization Representative (CR; D72)

- [Available on-line \(48 min\)](#)

District:

- **Commissioners**
 - [Available on-line \(305 min\)](#)

Miscellaneous:

Climbing Level 1 Instructor Training

- [09/16/2023 – 09/17/2023 – Sugarloaf Mountain, Urbana, MD](#)
- [09/23/2023 – 09/24/2023 – Great Falls Park, McLean, VA](#)



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Community Emergency Response Training

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

Den Chief Training (C31)

- **Available on-line**

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Scouting

- **Available on-line (30 min)**

First Aid/CPR/AED

- **Campaign Pay It Forward** (30% discount – use code “Scouts”)
- **American Red Cross** – Blended Courses (2.5 hr online, 1.75 hr classroom)
- **Stop the Bleed** – How to stop bleeding in a severely injured person
- **Until Help Arrives**
- (See *Wilderness First Aid*)

Life-to-Eagle Seminar

- 09/23/2023 – [Life to Eagle Seminar](#)

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

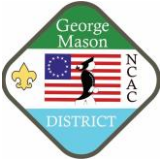
- **Various**

Outdoor Ethics/Leave No Trace (D78)

- **09/09/2023 – Brandywine, MD**
- **12/03/2023 – Brandywine, MD**
- **Outdoor Ethics Newsletter**

Wilderness First Aid/CPR/AED (N02)

- **[10/21/23 – 10/22/23, Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA](#)**
- **[11/18/23 – 11/19/23, Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA](#)**
- **[12/16/23 – 12/17/23, Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA](#)**



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Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)/NOVA

- [Scouting at Home – STEM](#)
- [NOVA Awards to do at home](#)
- [STEM in Scouting – Online Activities](#)
- [STEM Scouts – YouTube Channel](#)
- [STEM Scouts – Facebook Channel](#)
- [NASA STEM](#)
- [Scout Life – Science Fun!](#)

University of Scouting

- **02/24/2024** (2023 Course Materials available on [Basecamp](#))

Wood Badge (A90)

- [09/08/2023 – 09/10/2023 & 10/07/2023-10/08/2023](#)

Youth Protection Training (YPT)

- [Online](#) (72 minutes)

Local NCAC Leadership Training: [GMD Training](#)

STEM Events

Merit Badge Opportunities

- [09/09/2023 – Americanism MB Workshop, Fredericksburg, VA](#)



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Flags In – Veterans Day 2023

Scouts Honoring our Veterans

Celebrate Veterans Day by joining George Mason District scout families at “Flags-in” – placing American Flags on the graves of veterans. In 2022, approximately 315 youth and adults participated.



Class-A Uniforms and Masks

The scout family's pick-up flags at the Chapel: The National Memorial Park, 7482 Lee Highway, Falls Church, VA 22042. Families should then move into the NMP and place flags.

Schedule for November 11, 2023 (Saturday)

- 10:00 am – Event Starts – Get flags and instructions.
- 11:00 am and 12:00 pm – TAPS blown (buglers needed)
- 11:30am – Pizza served
- 1:00 pm – Event ends

Scout service hours (up to 3 hours) will be available. Each participating Scout earns a unique patch and rocker.

For more information, please contact: Russell Pittman at (571) 354-7378 or ruspittman@gmail.com

Slideshow: [How to Identify Veteran's Graves](#)

Pamphlet: [How to Identify Veteran's Graves](#)



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Thanks to all our **amazing staff, participants, parents and supporters** who made our **five 2023 courses a success!!**

2024 NYLT

Planning is already underway for **five more courses** next year at Camp William B. Snyder. Information and Registration will be available soon as we create space for more participants and staff to have extraordinary NYLT experiences!

Schedule-

- 24-1 Jan 12-15; Jan 27-28, 2024 (*both weekends*)
- 24-2 June 16-21, 2024
- 24-3 June 23-28, 2024
- 24-4 July 28-Aug 2, 2024
- 24-5 July 28-Aug 2, 2024

Registration will open in the Fall and will be announced through NCAC distro and on Facebook.

* **Staffing Opportunities**

Youth who have completed NYLT and will be at least 14 years old can apply for staff. This is an amazing opportunity to join a motivated team of youth trainers.

[Apply for Staff](#)



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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

<https://scoutingevent.com/082-70527>

QUESTIONS?

For information about specific courses, contact Course Coordinator, Shawn Carroll at Shawn.carroll@yahoo.com .



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**TRAINING FOR
OUTDOOR
ETHICS
GUIDES**

SATURDAY 6/10/23
SATURDAY 9/9/23
SUNDAY 12/3/23
@2:30-4:30
BRANDYWINE, MD

#ADVENTUREON

We all know about the Outdoor Ethics Guide position and have seen the Handbook, but how do you operationalize this position of responsibility to have the greatest positive impact in your unit?

Join Outdoor Ethics Guides and adult advisors for an in-person session to learn best practices, meet other Outdoor Ethics Guides and adult advisors, share experiences, discuss ways to overcome challenges, and create a network of Outdoor Ethics Guides across NCAC.

This session is open to current and future Outdoor Ethics Guides and their adult advisors. Ideally scouts and their advisors will attend together but attendance of both is not a requirement to attend.

Register

[Saturday 9/9/2023 at 2:30-4:30](#)

[Sunday 12/3/2023 at 2:30-4:30](#)



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Camp Snyder Turkey Trot & Ride

November 25, 2023

Located at Camp Snyder on 6100 Antioch Road, Haymarket, VA 20169

5K starts at 9 a.m., and bike ride starts at 1 p.m.

Sponsorships:

\$1,000 - Premier Sponsorship (limited 3 sponsors) - Large company logo on either the front or back of the race shirt, or logo on the drawstring bag

\$750 - Sleeve/Sock Sponsorship (limited 3 sponsors) - Company logo on either side of the sleeve or company logo on the race socks

\$500 - Race & Ride Sponsorship (limited 6 sponsors) - Medium company logo on either the front or back of the race shirt below the large logo

\$150 - Vendor Sponsorship (limited 12 sponsors) - Booth spot at the social gathering area to advertise company or product

All sponsors will receive two optional spots to fill for biking and racing. Please write a note for which sponsorship you are purchasing.

Tickets

- \$35 - 5K entry fee
- \$35 - Bike Ride entry fee

Please write a note for the number of tickets you are purchasing or if a portion of payment is an extra donation.

<https://donations.scouting.org/#/council/082/appeal/6529>





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2023 Journey to Excellence – NEW INFO from BSA

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

Journey to Excellence is the Boy Scouts of America program to help Packs, Troops, Crews, Ships and Posts to plan, monitor and evaluate their performance and their ability to serve youth. There are specific criteria for the unit to plan and accomplish. These standards are reviewed each year and revised standards are published.

The 2023 Journey to Excellence Standards are now available.

Here are the major changes in the JTE scorecards for 2022.

1. The standards are written as activities that the unit will do. This is to emphasize that JTE is primarily a planning tool.
2. The Cub Scout scorecard has many changed standards. This is because of changes in the Cub Scout program.
3. For standard #10, Gold now includes recruiting a new leader. We have found that the best units continually recruit parents and other adults who have never been involved in Scouting.

There is no requirement, no expectation and, in fact, we might discourage a unit from believing that they should achieve Gold in all JTE criteria. A great unit is balanced in the service that it provides to youth. There is no shame and no problem if a unit achieves Silver or Bronze. That unit is serving youth. We regard the various colors as meaning:

Bronze – Effective
Silver – Excellent
Gold – Exceptional

Please share with us your thoughts about JTE and any suggestions that you have for improvement. Please sent them to jte@scouting.org

National Assessment and Evaluation Committee
Boy Scouts of America

[2023 JTE Unit Scorecards \(PDF\) links:](#)

- [Pack Scorecard \(2023\)](#)
- [Troop Scorecard \(2023\)](#)



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Merit Badge Program



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

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

Current Merit Badge Counselors and Guidelines:

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

To become a Merit Badge Counselor:

You can apply online [here](#) (note, please ensure you have a current YPT before filling out application). When you are done with the application, send the MB Dean your list of MBs using the [Merit Badge Counselor Information Sheet](#).

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

Margee Egan at margee.egan@gmail.com



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2023 HIKEOREE SAVE THE DATE

October 27 - 29, 2023



"THE PURPOSE OF LIFE, AFTER ALL,
IS TO LIVE IT, TO TASTE EXPERIENCE
TO THE UTMOST, TO REACH OUT
EAGERLY AND WITHOUT FEAR FOR
NEWER AND RICHER EXPERIENCE."



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Outdoor Ethics Orientation Course



American Legion Post 227 – Two Outdoor Ethics Orientation courses offered:

9/9/23 at 12:30-2 in Brandywine, MD <https://scoutingevent.com/082-69068>

9/9/23 at 2:30-4:30 in Brandywine, MD <https://scoutingevent.com/082-69066>

The course is suitable for scouters and mature scouts. We hope as many units as possible are able to send at least 2 scouts and 1 scouter; this will allow your unit to have youth & adult members qualified to lead Outdoor Ethics at all outdoor events and help your scouts & scouters complete some of the requirements to earn the **Outdoor Ethics Award for Scouts** or **NCAC Outdoor Ethics Award for Cub Scouts**.

The course is perfect for your unit's **Outdoor Ethics Guide** (formerly Leave No Trace Trainer) or scouts who plan to take that leadership role.

By the end of the class, the participants should have:

- Knowledge of Outdoor Ethics
- Knowledge of the Outdoor Code
- Knowledge of how Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly! and The Land Ethic / Stewardship support the Outdoor Code
- Knowledge of Outdoor Ethics Awareness and Action Awards Program
- Knowledge to locate additional Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly! and BSA Outdoor Ethics resources and opportunities for further training

After this course and completion of the on-line Leave No Trace On-Line Awareness course and Tread Lightly! on-line Awareness course, participants should have enough knowledge to

- Earn the Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award
- Conduct Outdoor Ethics workshops & activities within their respective units
- Help scouts & scouters earn their Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award

Subscribe to the NCAC Outdoor Ethics Newsletter



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BSA Leave No Trace Trainer Course - Outdoor Ethics



Camp Snyder in Haymarket, Virginia

10/16/23 (online) and 10/21/23 (in person)

<https://scoutingevent.com/082-66417>

Izaak Walton in Germantown, Maryland

9/25/23 (online at night) and 9/30/23 (in person)

<https://scoutingevent.com/082-70735>

Two Leave No Trace Trainer courses:

From a Cub Scout's first hike in a local park to the thrill of our High Adventure bases, from our backyard to the backcountry, our outdoor ethics guide us to be responsible outdoor citizens — protecting our natural world for generations to come and being considerate of other visitors.

The Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scout programs all include outdoor stewardship, care for the environment, and Leave No Trace.

This Leave No Trace Trainer course is designed to enrich your understanding of Leave No Trace principles and practices, expand your repertoire of low-impact skills, and increase your effectiveness in teaching these important skills to others.

Course Description

- This course is for BSA members 14 and older who teach outdoor skills to others.
- Participants learn Leave No Trace awareness, principles, skills and ethics through a combination of presentation, discussion, and hands-on activities. They learn and practice techniques for teaching these concepts.
- Each participant will prepare and present a short (10-15 minute) lesson. Topic assignments will be given to participants before the course.
- At least 10 days before the required Saturday outdoor session--which will be held in Germantown, MD-- students will be assigned approximately 6 hours of online self-study learning, which must be completed prior to the outdoor session. Students who do not complete the self-study portion will not be allowed to attend the outdoor session. Students must attend the entire Saturday in-person session.
- Preregistration is required and class size is limited, so register soon.
- The class will be held at Camp Snyder in Haymarket, VA. A suggested equipment list, driving directions, etc will be provided to participants before the course.

Scouting has embraced the Leave No Trace program as the core of our outdoor ethics. Every Troop, Crew and Pack should have at least one Leave No Trace Trainer. Within Scouting, this course is recommended for:

- Troop Outdoor Ethics Guides and their adult mentors



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- Other Troop and Crew leaders – youth & adults
- Cub Scout Pack adult leaders
- High Adventure crew leaders
- Summer camp and High Adventure Base staff, Camp Commissioners
- District training teams and other outdoor skills instructors
- “High end” course instructors (Wood Badge, National Youth Leadership Training, etc.)

Those completing the course will be Leave No Trace Trainers, recognized by Leave No Trace and the BSA. They will be prepared to:

- Understand, demonstrate, and teach minimum impact techniques to friends, family, scouting groups, and other community groups.
- Teach general Leave No Trace awareness workshops or other activities.
- Teach the BSA Leave No Trace 101 Awareness class, help others earn the Outdoor Ethics Awards, teach and check outdoor ethics advancement requirements, and lead related activities at scouting events.
- Lead discussions on outdoor ethics and help others explore their own personal outdoor ethic.
- Serve as an outdoor ethics resource in their community and scouting district.

All participants must be current registered members of the BSA. All adult participants must be current in their BSA Youth Protection Training.

This is an adult-level course. Youth participants must have the maturity to discuss and teach sensitive topics, such as feminine hygiene and proper disposal of various forms of human waste, to other youth and adults.

Note: Additional course details will be emailed to participants a few weeks prior to the course.

Key Dates

Enrollment closes	Monday, September 18
Student self-study	Tuesday, September 19 through Friday, September 29
Zoom meeting	Monday, September 25, 7:00pm to 8:00pm EST
Outdoor session	Saturday, September 30, 9:00am to 7:00pm EST Izaak Walton League of America-Germantown MD 18301 Waring Station Rd Germantown, Maryland 20874 Phone: 301-906-0069

Cost

This course will cost \$50.00 per participant (same price for both youth and adults).

Course Director

Paul Schimke
paul@schimke.org
301-906-0069



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George Mason Chapter Order of the Arrow (OA)

The George Mason Chapter of the O/A meets in person on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Thoreau Middle School from 7:30-8:30. (Same time/location as GM Roundtable.)

- Fall Fellowship, September 8-10, 2023 at Goshen Scout Reservation.

Ordeals:

- VA Central Ordeal – September 28 - October 1, 2023 Camp Snyder. Ordeal registration page is here: <https://wipit470.org/ordeal.html>

2023-2024 OA Election

11/01/2023 – 05/31/2024 – Unit election season for Order of the Arrow

Plan Unit campouts to allow your youth to meet election camping requirements now!

Lodge Website: [Wipit470.org](https://wipit470.org)



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Amangamek-Wipit Lodge – 2023 Calendar

September 2023		
8-10	Fall Fellowship	CWBS
9	LO&A at Fellowship	GSR
15 - 17	<i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	
24-25	<i>Yom Kippur</i>	
October 2023		
1	LEC	Marriott Scout Service Center (MSSC)
November 2023		
1	Unit Election Season Opens	
5	LO&A	Virtual
23	<i>Thanksgiving</i>	
TBD	Vigil (2)	TBD
December 2023		
1-2	2023 Trade-O-Ree	CWBS
3	LEC	MSSC
3	Chapter Budgets and PMP packages due	MSSC



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Reporting Service Hours

NCAC Wipit 470 has provided a self-reporting online solution for any Wipit OA member, youth and adult, for service hours one performs. You can report hours as many times during the year as one wishes. These hours help support the Wipit Golden Tooth Service Award.

OA Service Hour Reporting - Online form for reporting all O/A service hours performed at the Troop/Crew/Ship level (all service hours worked for the Lodge or at Ordeals are recorded by event staff). This will help with tracking hours for Golden Tooth and other related awards. Units can choose to use the [spreadsheet](#) as an alternate way of submitting their data.

Amangamek-Wipit Lodge – 2023 Annual Dues

To attend any OA event or wear your sash and lodge flap, you must be a current dues-paying member of our lodge! For 2023, annual dues will be \$14 until March 31, 2023 when they increase to \$16 on April 1, 2022 (no fooling!). Payment may be made by credit card or e-check.

You will have an opportunity to make a contribution to help support our lodge activities and operations. Become a Lodge Contributor by making a \$100 contribution and receive our special Lodge Contributor patch and the satisfaction of knowing that you've dramatically helped further our mission of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service.

If you are transferring from another lodge, please visit the Membership Dues and Transfers page on the lodge website <https://scoutingevent.com/082-MembershipTransfer> and complete the [Membership Transfer Form](#) to pay your dues.

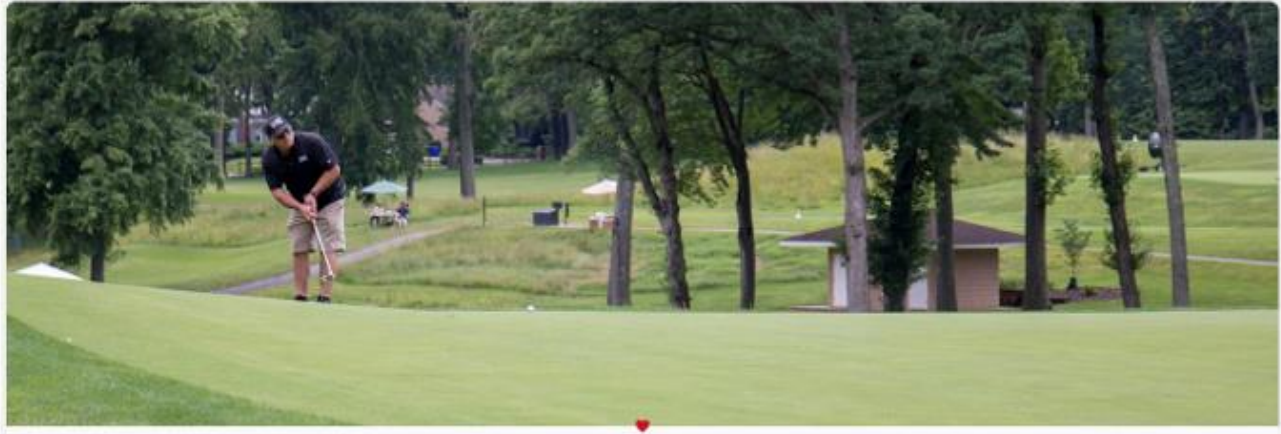
[Pay OA Dues](#)



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Sully District Golf Classic 2023

National Capital Area Council Golf Classic

Date: September 22nd, 2023

Time: 9:00AM

Location:

Twin Lakes Golf Course

6201 Union Mill Road, Clifton, VA 20124

<https://donations.scouting.org/#/council/082/appeal/6456>