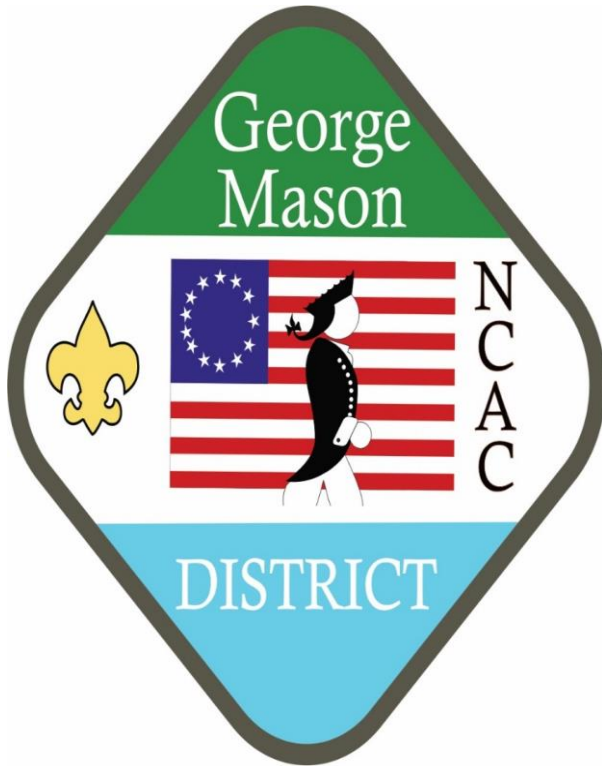




# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



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. January 11, 2024 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](#)



# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

## JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



### Calendar of Events – Links included if available

#### January 2024:

01/06/2024 – OA Banquet, Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center, 7801 Alumni Dr, College Park, MD 20742

01/11/2024 – GM Roundtable, 7:30 PM, Thoreau MS, Vienna, Va

01/11/2024 – GM OA Chapter meeting, 7:30 PM, Thoreau MS, Vienna, Va

01/12/24-01/15/24 & 01/27/24-01/28/24 – NYLT - Session 24-1 – Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA [NYLT](#)

#### February 2024:

02/03/2024 – GM Virtual Life to Eagle Seminar, Registration

02/08/2024 – GM Roundtable, 7:30 PM, Thoreau MS, Vienna, Va

02/08/2024 – GM OA Chapter meeting, 7:30 PM, Thoreau MS, Vienna, Va

02/24/2024 – NCAC University of Scouting, Hayfield Secondary School, Alexandria, Va

#### March 2024:

03/09/2024 – NCAC Commissioner College

03/09/2024 – George Mason District Merit Badge Day, Fairfax Presbyterian Church, Fairfax, Va. Contact John Drisco at [gmasonmeritbadgeday@gmail.com](mailto:gmasonmeritbadgeday@gmail.com)

03/14/2024 – GM Roundtable, 7:30 PM, Thoreau MS, Vienna, Va

03/14/2024 – GM OA Chapter meeting, 7:30 PM, Thoreau MS, Vienna, Va

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

03/23/2023 & 04/27-28/2024 – Back County Outdoor Leadership Skills (BCOLS), Lorton, Va



# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

## JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



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

#### April 2024:

04/11/2024 – GM Roundtable, 7:30 PM, Thoreau MS, Vienna, Va

04/11/2024 – GM OA Chapter meeting, 7:30 PM, Thoreau MS, Vienna, Va

#### May 2024:

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

05/09/2024 – GM Roundtable, 7:30 PM, Thoreau MS, Vienna, Va

05/09/2024 – GM OA Chapter meeting, 7:30 PM, Thoreau MS, Vienna, Va

05/31/2024 - 2023-2024 OA Unit Election Season CLOSES –  
NO MORE OA UNIT ELECIONS for 2023-2024 after May 31, 2024.

#### October 2024:

10/11-14/2024 – National Capital Area Council and Mountaineer Area Council will host **Climboree 2024**  
at [Camp Mountaineer](#) near [Morgantown, WV](#)



# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

## JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



### Chair's Chat

Happy New Year! Well, contrary to what I said in the last "Chat", It looks like I am back for 2 more issues. Let's get started.

Let's start with a quick recap of 2023:

**Program** – Our district programs were very successful this year, especially our Merit Badge Day which operated at capacity, our exciting District Pinewood Derby, and our Fall Camporee which had record attendance.

**Service** – We had another great year of service to the community with our Memorial Day Flags-In and our Scouting for Food drive.

**Membership** – while our district did not grow this year, we have kept up high retention rates with our Scouts and units. Some of our units needed to find new charter partners and did so successfully. We have recruited 3 new people to our district membership team which will pay off in the year ahead.

**Marketing** – We have continued to publish our district newsletter thanks to Mark Serfass and look forward to great things ahead with a new marketing chair to help move us ahead.

**Finance** – We were able to meet and exceed our Friends of Scouting fundraising goal and grow our popcorn sales.

**Manpower** – at our District Annual Meeting in November we were able to add 12 new members to our District Committee as well as enlisting new chairs for the Membership and Marketing Committees. Additionally, we will have a new District Chair take over the reins at our March District Committee meeting. Thank you and good luck in your new position, Traci Yates.

The new year is a time for resolutions. What is your resolution to Scouting? How will you help make Scouting better for your children, youth in your unit, and for the community? Our answer to those questions will determine the future of Scouting.

I will see you on the train in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

John Kilduff – George Mason District Chair - 732-610-4284





**GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS**  
JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



**George Mason District Executive’s Chat**



"Happy Holidays! I'm so happy to be celebrating the new year and a whole year in scouting! It has been such an awesome and special experience. Not every DE gets to say they received such a warm welcome into the district. I am so happy to work with all of you and everyone has made it such a great experience. I can't wait to work more closely with all of you and to really be able to get our district and our units what they need! Thank you so much John, Rus, and our leaders for your patience and guidance this year I wouldn't have made it without all of your support.

Here's to another Scouting Year!"

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



# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

## JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



### 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.



## GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



### 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.

Please contact me if I can be of assistance.

YIS,

*Key De Lauder*

Training Chairman, George Mason District, NCAC

## District Life to Eagle Seminar – February 3, 2024



- **Saturday, 3 February 2024**
- **1:00 to 4:30 p.m.**
- **Virtual**
- **Register at:** <https://scoutingevent.com/082-77316>

### 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 1 February 2024 in order to receive Zoom link.**

Any questions contact Matt Burns at 703-938-9550 or at [gm.advancement@gmail.com](mailto:gm.advancement@gmail.com)



# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



[BOOK NOW FOR 2024 SEA BASE](#)

**Sea Base is a unique Scouting program that offers aquatics programs found nowhere else. Whether your interests lie in sailing, scuba diving, rustic camping on an undeveloped barrier island, fishing or a combination of all, this is the place for your Troop, Crew, Sea Ship or Explorer Post. Sea Base serves around 16,000 participants annually.**



## COVID-19 Update

Please review our COVID-19 mitigation plan, policy updates, and medical checklist.

[VIEW UPDATES](#)



## Registration Links

[2024 CREWS](#)

[2025 CREWS](#)





## GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



### **Coral Restoration**

The Sea Base coral nursery will grow up to 10,000 corals each year which Scouts will help grow, care for and plant on the reef.

[LEARN MORE](#)



### **Ocean Adventures Await.**

Sea Base offers 18 different programs at 4 amazing locations. Our Main Sea Base in Islamorada, FL, the Brinton Environmental Center in Summerland Key, FL, St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Marsh Harbour, The Bahamas.



# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



# Summit

[Summit Info](#)

[Registration info](#)

[Shop Online](#)

2025 SUMMER SEASON REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 18 - 9AM EST

# Get ready for an **AWESOME** summer adventure in 2025!

Now is the perfect time to start planning your 2025 trip to the Summit to experience some of the best and most unique High Adventure in Scouting. We're opening up registration on January 18, 2024 and we want you to be prepared to start your adventure with us.



[CHECK OUT 2025 REGISTRATION INFO](#)



## GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



# George Mason District's Annual Merit Badge Day

Date: March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Fairfax Presbyterian Church located at 10723 Main St, Fairfax, VA 22030 .

Registration is now open on the Corsizio BSA George Mason District Events website:

<https://site.corsizio.com/a/5bf2f8e8e6dfc6f1ca7cbd64>

Unit Merit Badge Day Coordinator names and contact details are needed to be sent now to John Drisco at [gmasonmeritbadgeday@gmail.com](mailto:gmasonmeritbadgeday@gmail.com)

Encourage Scouts to get their merit badge books by December 31. Read the requirements and start tackling “pre-work” by early January 2024.

Note: The “pre-work” is not the same as a “prerequisite.” The “pre-work” consists of tasks/activities that the Scout is advised to do in advance of the Merit Badge Day. A Scout can still participate in the Merit Badge Day class if he hasn't completed the pre-work but failure to complete the pre-work may mean the Scout leaves the Merit Badge Day with a partial badge. A prerequisite is something that must be done in order to qualify to take the class. The only prerequisite we are aware of for the George Mason Merit Badge Day is that the Scout must be a registered member of the Boy Scouts in a participating unit.

Feedback at [gmasonmeritbadgeday@gmail.com](mailto:gmasonmeritbadgeday@gmail.com)





## GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



### **Update for financial assistance from Deputy Scout Exec Lee Murdoch.**

All,

Hope that this note finds you well. I wanted to give you all an update on our Financial Support process to date.

As we heard through the Participation Fee listening sessions creating an easier to access point for families to request financial support was a customer service enhancement that would be greatly appreciated. We launched a new platform on September 1st, 2023 and have generated the following requests year to date:

Moving forward, we will work to process updates and notify individuals every Friday to ensure there is no delay in the request and the unit's ability to process their Recharter.

At this juncture we believe that the appropriate communication reach will be to the individual family with a Courtesy Copy to the Unit Committee Chair.

I know that many have been patiently waiting, and for that I thank you. Thank You also to all the individuals and organizations that have graciously made financial gifts to ensure that NCAC has the ability to offer this critical support. Friends of Scouting support will continue to offset these costs in the years to come.

Regards,

Lee Murdoch

NCAC Deputy Scout Executive

Just an update on the Participation fee & Financial Aid.

1. If a family is requesting Financial aid the family will get an email confirming they have received X amount of dollars. They will be instructed to inform the Committee Chair and that amount should be deducted from the total check given to council for recharter. (Council is working on being able to send Committee Chairs list of Financial aid recipients)
2. If a family has 3+ kids families will need to coordinate with unit leaders to deduct 4th+ participation fee from recharter. If children do not share the same surname as each other or parents please provide that information with recharter packages.



**GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS**  
JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



**October 11-14, 2024**

**CLIMBOREE 2024**



**Join us in October 2024 for two full days of climbing, high ropes challenges, shooting sports, and Dutch oven cooking!**



**GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS**  
JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



**Join us in October 2024 for two full days of climbing, high ropes challenges, shooting sports, and Dutch oven cooking!**

The National Capital Area Council and Mountaineer Area Council will host **Climboree 2024** at [Camp Mountaineer](#) near [Morgantown, WV](#) on the long holiday weekend from **October 11 to October 14, 2024**.  
**SAVE THE DATES!**

- Climbing and rappelling on natural rock
- 60-foot climbing tower
- Bouldering on gritstone walls
- Guided challenge course sessions
- Big Zip quarter-mile zipline
- Rifle, shotgun, and archery ranges
- All-day, hands-on Dutch oven cooking class

**\$30 per participant** for a weekend of tent camping and adventure. We will not provide meals. Save our [flyer](#) and watch for our [registration](#) announcement in early April. Email [NCAC.Climboree@gmail.com](mailto:NCAC.Climboree@gmail.com) to join our contact list.

**We hope to see you there!**



**GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS**  
JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



<https://scoutingevent.com/082-76291>

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
AND SAVE THE DATE!**

**Saturday  
February 24, 2024**

**University of  
Scouting**

**IN-PERSON EVENT  
WITH LIMITED ON-LINE OPTIONS IN THE  
COLLEGES OF SCOUTS BSA AND CUB  
SCOUTING**

<https://scoutingevent.com/082-76291>



# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



## 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 \(125 min\)](#)

### Scout:

- **Scoutmaster Position Specific Training(S24)**
  - [Available on-line \(192 min\)](#)
- **Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS; S11)**
  - [11/18/23 – 11/19/23, Lorton, VA](#)
- **Back Country Outdoor Leadership Skills (BCOLS)**
  - [03/23/24 & 04/27/24-04/28/24](#)
  - [10/05/24 & 11/02/24-11/03/24](#)

### Chartering Organization Representative (CR; D72)

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

### District:

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

### Miscellaneous:

#### **Climbing Level 1 Instructor Training**

#### **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](#)





# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

## JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



### ***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*)

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

- **Various**

### ***National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT; S78)***

- **01/12/24-01/15/24 & 01/27/24-01/28/24 – Session 24-1 – Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA**
- **06/16/24 – 06/21/24 – Session 24-2 – Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA**
- **06/23/24 – 06/28/24 – Session 24-3 – Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA**
- **07/28/24 – 08/02/24 – Session 24-4 – Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA**
- **07/28/24 – 08/02/24 – Session 24-5 – Camp Snyder, Haymarket, VA**

### ***Outdoor Ethics/Leave No Trace (D78)***

- **Outdoor Ethics Newsletter**

### ***Wilderness First Aid/CPR/AED (N02)***

### ***Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)/NOVA***

- **Scouting at Home – STEM**
- **NOVA Awards to do at home**
- **STEM in Scouting – Online Activities**



# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



- [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](#))

## ***Wilderness First Aid/CPR/AED (N02)***

- [www.campaignpayitforward.com](http://www.campaignpayitforward.com), (833) 273-6263, [info@campaignpayitforward.com](mailto:info@campaignpayitforward.com)
- [www.wildsafe.org](http://www.wildsafe.org), (855) 505-1700 or (703) 444-9468 – Clif Castleman – [clifton@wildsafe.org](mailto:clifton@wildsafe.org)
- [www.onthetrailfirstaid.com](http://www.onthetrailfirstaid.com), (410) 456-6861 – Saleena DeVore – [saleena@onthetrailfirstaid.com](mailto:saleena@onthetrailfirstaid.com)
- [www.ETRsafety.com](http://www.ETRsafety.com), (703) 771-6092, [info@ETRsafety.com](mailto:info@ETRsafety.com)
- [www.solowfa.com](http://www.solowfa.com), (434) 326-4697, [courses@solowfa.com](mailto:courses@solowfa.com)
- <https://www.rei.com/events/a/outdoor-skills-wilderness-medicine>
- [www.wfa.net](http://www.wfa.net), (703) 836-8905, Chris Tate – [chris@wfa.net](mailto:chris@wfa.net)
- **Troop 1430** – South Riding VA (ECSI), Dallas Cecil – [dkcecil@earthlink.net](mailto:dkcecil@earthlink.net) – (571) 969-1592
- **Venturing Crew 80** – Alexandria VA (ARC), Michael Martin (Associate Advisor) – [CPRAEDFAWRFA@comcast.net](mailto:CPRAEDFAWRFA@comcast.net)

## ***Wood Badge (A90)***

- **04/12/24 – 04/14/24 & 05/04/24 – 05/05/24**
- **10/14/24 – 10/15/24 & 10/05/24 – 10/06/24**

## **Youth Protection Training (YPT) [Online](#) (72 minutes)**



**GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS**  
**JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024**



**Council Virtual Roundtable | NCAC Camping Programs 2024**

**Meet your NCAC experts and learn about the amazing camping programs and outdoor adventures NCAC has for our Scouts!**

- [Goshen Scout Reservation](#) - Elisabeth Warren
- [Camp William B. Snyder](#) - Ryan Alford
- [Camp Catoctin](#) - Sean Byrne
- [Camp Howard M. Wall](#) - Laura Kuras
- [Day Camp & Twilight Camp](#) - Kelly Wratkowski

Breakouts for Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA will begin at 8:00 PM

**Zoom Meeting Details**

- Link: [bit.ly/ncacvrtnov2023](https://bit.ly/ncacvrtnov2023)
- Meeting ID: 886 9737 8679
- Audio Only: 301-715-8592

If you have any questions about this event or Roundtables, please contact Bill Desmond, our NCAC Roundtable lead via Basecamp Ping Bill or via email at [bspd1438@aol.com](mailto:bspd1438@aol.com)

**Bryan N. Martin Firvida** | Council VP for Marketing & Communications | Assistant Council Commissioner | Council Champion, BSA Scoutbook User Advisory Council - **National Capital Area Council**

email: [bryanscouting@gmail.com](mailto:bryanscouting@gmail.com)

Photo: Goshen Scout Reservation's Lake Merriweather!

**COUNCIL VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLE**  
**NCAC CAMPING PROGRAMS 2024**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023**  
**7:30 TO 8:30 PM**

Meet your NCAC experts and learn about the amazing camping programs and outdoor adventures NCAC has for our Scouts!

- **Goshen Scout Reservation** - Elisabeth Warren
- **Camp William B. Snyder** - Ryan Alford
- **Camp Catoctin** - Sean Byrne
- **Camp Howard M. Wall** - Laura Kuras
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**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**  
**NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL**

Questions? Contact Bill Desmond at [bspd1438@aol.com](mailto:bspd1438@aol.com)  
**NCACBSA.ORG**

[NCAC VRT - NOV 2023.pdf 925 KB • Download](#)

[NCAC VRT - NOV 2023.png 821 KB • Download](#)



**GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS**  
**JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024**



Save the Day!

# Be a Superhero!

at Camp Snyder Summer 2024

## Cub Scout Camp Day Camp

6/24 - 6/28  
7/8 - 7/12

## Resident Weekends

6/20 - 6/23  
6/27 - 6/30  
7/11 - 7/14

## Family 4th of July

7/5 - 7/7

**Adventures! Advancement! Fun!**

Programs are open to Cub Scouts  
 - rising Tigers to rising Arrow of Light.  
 Family 4th of July is open to all ages!

[www.gotosnyder.org](http://www.gotosnyder.org)

Looking for programs for older campers?

Scout Specialty Weeks  
 for Scouts BSA  
[www.gotosnyder.org](http://www.gotosnyder.org)

Goshen Scout Reservation  
 for Scouts BSA, Venturers, & Webelos  
[www.gotogoshen.org](http://www.gotogoshen.org)



# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



## GOSHEN SCOUT RESERVATION



### Camp Olmsted - Scouts BSA / Venturing

Camp Olmsted is a center for STEM, hosting the “Tech Center” with programs including robotics, animation, and design. Olmsted also offers wide variety of programs in aquatics, ecology, outdoor skills, shooting sports, and crafts. Units at Olmsted enjoy meals prepared in the Forster Dining Hall and take part in a dynamic “dining hall program.” Camp Olmsted offers camping for 400 and is the largest camp at the Goshen Scout Reservation.

### Camp Bowman - Scouts BSA / Venturing

Units who attend Camp Bowman will take part in the Patrol Cooking program, creating the opportunity for Scouts to apply their new and developing scout skills. By working together to cook each meal and care for the campsite, Camp Bowman units see growth in scout independence and teamwork. Camp Bowman offers camping for 300, and includes program areas for outdoor skills, shooting sports, aquatics, crafts, and more.



### Camp Marriott - Scouts BSA / Venturing

With a focus on vocational and trade skills, Camp Marriott offers a large variety of merit badge programs in areas including aquatics, ecology, outdoor skills, shooting sports, and eagle advancement. With an emphasis on vocational and trade skills, “The Guild” hosts classes in metal working, welding, automotive maintenance. Camp Marriott offers camping for 300 and offers patrol cooking and “heater stack” dining methods. Camp Marriott is also home to GSR’s Provisional Camp program.

### Camp Ross - Webelos and AOL Scouts

With the goal to give scouts “a great week and an introduction to scouting,” Camp Ross serves as week-long introduction into the Scouts BSA program and future scouting experiences. Camp Ross offers camping for 300 and supports programs in nature, outdoor skills, crafts, shooting sports, and aquatics (including a water trampoline!). Units at Camp Ross enjoy meals from the Dining Hall and participate in camp songs and celebrations with the staff.



### Lenhok’sin High Adventure - Backpacking and Canoeing Treks

Based on a “plan your own adventure” structure, Lenhok’sin’s customizable Backpacking Trek and 61-mile James River Canoe Trek serve as a preparation opportunity for units who may be aspiring to attend a National High Adventure Base, such as Philmont or Northern Tier, in the future. Lenhok’sin backpacking units also take part in other high adventure activities including caving, black powder rifle shooting, blacksmithing, stand-up paddle boarding, and more!

[www.gotogoshen.org](http://www.gotogoshen.org)



# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



## 2023

### **FALL EXPOS FAMILY CAMP** *at Camp Snyder*

October 20-22, 2023  
November 17-19, 2023

Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA welcome!  
Take part in climbing, target sports,  
STEM, crafts, and the popular  
Woodshop.

## 2024

### **GOSHEN FAMILY CAMP** *at Goshen Scout Reservation*

Memorial Day: May 26-29, 2023  
Labor Day: September 1-4, 2023

Enjoy the beauty of Goshen and make  
the most of your weekend with fun for  
all ages!

### **SPRING FAMILY CAMP** *at Camp Snyder*

April 19-21, 2024  
May 10-12, 2024

Get into the outdoors and enjoy spring  
with a variety of activities!

[www.gotogoshen.org](http://www.gotogoshen.org) & [www.gotosnyder.org](http://www.gotosnyder.org)



# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



Want the coolest summer job?

## JOIN CAMP STAFF!



Snyder • Ross • Olmsted • Marriott • Bowman • Lenhok'sin • Post

Ever year, Camp Snyder and the six camps of Goshen Scout Reservation employ close to 300 highly motivated individuals to participate in the experience of a lifetime.

### Job Requirements

We are seeking enthusiastic people who enjoy the outdoors. Prior experience with the Boy Scouts of America is not required.

- 21+ Specialty Leadership positions
- 18+ Area & Outpost Directors, other leadership
- 16+ Lifeguards, Lenhok'sin staff
- 15+ Program staff
- 14+ Counselor-in-Training

### About the Job

For most positions, the primary focus is delivering program to youth and adult participants, whether in a program area or a wilderness outpost. Other responsibilities include general duties based on the operations of camp.

Room and board are provided. Staff at Snyder return home for their weekly day off while staff at Goshen live on site and go into town.

### Camps

WGoshen Scout Reservation is comprised of 3 Scouts BSA/Venturing Resident Camps (Camps Bowman, Marriott, and Olmsted), a Webelos Resident Camp (Camp Ross), Lenhok'sin High Adventure, and the administrative headquarters Camp Post. Camp Snyder primarily offers day and overnight programs for Cub Scouts, Tigers through Webelos, with two weeks of program for Scouts BSA.

### Dates

Goshen camps (most): June 15 - July 30, 2024

Camp Snyder: June 15 - August 2, 2024

**Interviews start in January 2024.**

Apply by January 19 to get a January interview slot!



Goshen Scout Reservation  
[www.gotogoshen.org/staff](http://www.gotogoshen.org/staff)

Camp Snyder  
[www.gotosnyder.org/work](http://www.gotosnyder.org/work)





**GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS**  
**JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024**



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](#)





# GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

## JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



## 2024 Journey to Excellence

<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 2024 Journey to Excellence Standards are now available.

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

National Assessment and Evaluation Committee  
Boy Scouts of America

**2024 links are found here:**

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



## GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



### *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](mailto:margee.egan@gmail.com)



## GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



### **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.)

#### **Lodge Annual Banquet**

01/06/2024 – OA Banquet, Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center, 7801 Alumni Dr, College Park, MD 20742

#### **2023-2024 OA Election Period**

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

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

Ordeal registration page is here: <https://wipit470.org/ordeal.html>

#### **Reporting 2023 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.



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**JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024**



| Amangamek-Wipit Lodge / GMD Chapter Calender  |                                     |                         |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Date  | Event                               | Location                |
| October 2023  |                                     |                         |
| 10/28/2023  | Scouting for Food Delivering Fliers | GMD                     |
| November 2023   |                                     |                         |
| 11/1/2023   | Unit Election Season Open           | GMD                     |
| 11/4/2023   | Scouting for Food Picking up Food   | GMD                     |
| 11/5/2023   | LO&A                                | Virtual                 |
| TBD   | Chapter Leadership Meeting time TBD | Virtual                 |
| 11/9/2023   | Chapter Meeting 7:30-8:30pm *       | Thoreau M. S.           |
| 11/23/2023  | Thanksgiving                        |                         |
| Dec-23  |                                     |                         |
| 14-Dec  | Chapter Meeting 7:30-8:30pm **      | Thoreau M. S.           |
| January 2024  |                                     |                         |
| 6-Jan   | Lodge Banquet 9am-1pm               | UofM Riggs Aumni Center |
| 11-Jan  | Chapter Meeting 7:30-8:30pm         | Thoreau M. S.           |
|   |                                     |                         |
| *Adgenda: Chapter Business, OA elections Ms.Nause, Activity TBD, Cracker Barrel TBD   |                                     |                         |
| **Adgenda: Chapter Business, Speaker District Pinewood Derby, Activity Clasic Pinewood Derby<br>(Bring in your clasic pinewood derby cars to race) Cracker Barral Pizza |                                     |                         |
| Chapter meeting Thoreau Middle School 2505 Cedar Lane Vienna VA 22180   |                                     |                         |

[Pay OA Dues](#)



## GEORGE MASON DISTRICT PRESS

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2024



### **Amangamek-Wipit Lodge – 2024 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 2024, annual dues will be \$14 until March 31, 2024 when they increase to \$16 on April 1, 2024 (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.

#### [Pay OA Dues](#)

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.