



The Patriot Press



Volume 23
Patriot District

<http://www.ncacbsa.org/patriot/press>

December 2020
National Capital Area Council

Issue 12
Boy Scouts of America

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*Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays
to all Scouts and Scouters!*



From the District Chairman

As we come to the end of 2020, units in Patriot District should be proud and celebrate their accomplishments in a socially distant manner or via zoom. Since March 2020, Scouting has continued and thrived. Units have found a safe way to meet outdoors or via zoom. Units have conducted events such as camping trips, campfires, family campouts, and day adventure trips, and several units attended summer camp at the Summit. Numerous merit badge courses were offered, primarily on zoom. Scouts at all levels advanced in rank. This included Scouts performing the action or attaining the skill needed for advancement and then passing a Board of Review. Scouts were honored and promoted at a Court of Honor or, for Cub Scouts, at a Pack meeting. During this time, several Scouts attained the rank of Eagle, including our first female Eagle Scouts.

On Saturday, February 27, 2021, NCAC will hold the University of Scouting via zoom. Adult Scouters will have an opportunity to choose from 150 courses which ones to take. Courses focus on useful skills such as *How to Conduct a Board of Review* or *Introduction to Basecamp*. Adult students can earn a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree or a PhD in Scouting. Many participants just take courses for fun or enrichment. I highly recommend attending this event to learn skills that you can apply as an adult leader. Plus, it is fun. Registration will open on January 8, 2021.

In October, the Council Commissioner Corps held a Commissioner's college via zoom. It was enlightening, practical and enjoyable. After attending the Commissioner's college via zoom, I feel the zoom University of Scouting also will be a worthwhile event. Additionally, since it is via zoom, you will not have to arrive a half an hour early to get a parking place.

Congratulations to Troops 1345B/G and Pack 1345. In November they conducted a joint three-unit food drive that collected one thousand pounds, which they then donated to ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others). Units are encouraged to continue to conduct their own food drives in service to our greater community. Units can donate the food collected to any food bank they want to support or join in community events such as the Fairfax County event Stuff the Bus. In Patriot District, however, the ECHO organization is prepared to receive and distribute food to families in need. Steve Richardson is the ECHO Major Food Drive Coordinator. He is also a Scouter with the Old Dominion District. He can be contacted at ristph@aol.com or by cell at (571) 422-2198. Steve will coordinate with any unit on a food drive for ECHO. Units that conduct an independent food drive please notify Pat Ring at pring978@gmail.com or cell (703) 674-6178. Patriot District wants to keep track of all units that contribute to food drives.

Wishing everyone a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Bill Dexter
Patriot District Committee Chair





From the District Commissioner

2020 is drawing to a close and I think we'll all be glad to have this miserable year behind us. Unfortunately, it isn't over yet and we still have challenges ahead of us in keeping our Scouts active in finding adventure and having fun. We can still do in-person meetings, but with Governor Northam's November announcement we are now limited to a total of 25 people whether indoors or outdoors. He also dropped the age of indoor mandatory mask usage from 10 to 5. These are the only new restrictions of our activities of which I'm aware. Units are still doing outdoor things and that's great so long as the weather cooperates.

Everyone is probably aware now that BSA IT recently changed the domain name for Scoutbook. The URL is now <https://scoutbook.scouting.org/> vice the previous scoutbook.com. Initially, if you went to scoutbook.com, you were to be rerouted to the new site, except it didn't work. Then we were told to clear your cache and cookies to get into Scoutbook. I'm told everything is now fixed with the reroute working and there is no need to clear cache and cookies. For those still using internet advancement, the new URL for that is <https://advancements.scouting.org/>.

BSA IT has also made some changes to my.scouting.org. Those having access to the tools will notice that the member manager no longer exists and has been merged into the organization manager. The organization manager is now a sort of one-stop shop for your unit. You'll find settings where you can change whether your unit will or will not accept adult applications online. It also affords a place to write emails that will be sent to online registrants. This is where changes to the pin for your unit in BeaScout.org are made. The unit roster is here and can be downloaded in an Excel CSV format. The reports selection offers a new report of changes that have been made to your youth membership between dates you select. It will show drops, additions by new, and additions by transfer.

NCAC has just had an organization restructure with our areas. We've gone from five service areas to three. We've been in Virginia Central, which included Chain Bridge, Colonial, George Mason, and Old Dominion. We're now in the Virginia Central – WDC – Scout Reach Service Area which is all of the above districts plus Washington DC District. In the process, our Field Director, Don Kilgore, has moved to the Maryland Service Area and Tonya Dobbins has become our Field Director. Tonya is a long-time professional Scouter with NCAC being her third Council.

The Council had a contest for the design of a Female Eagle Scout Council Strip Patch (CSP). Life Scout Sarah Chernesky of Troop 1965G was just notified that her design was the winning design. Aaron Chusid, NCAC Chief Communications Officer, has begun working with a design company to ensure BSA patch guidelines are followed in its manufacture and the patch will be soon to follow. Can hardly wait to see the final product. Congratulations to Sarah.

And last but not least, the Christmas season is fast approaching. I and all our Commissioners wish each and every Scout, Scouter, and their families a very Merry Christmas.

David Astle
District Commissioner



From Our District Executive

What a wonderful time for Scouting! Patriot's scouting families are doing a great job at adapting and being prepared no matter what changes COVID might bring. Patriot was able to hold two district-wide food drives and many pack and troops also organized their own food drives. Patriot Scouts sure are helpful!

Scouts have successfully moved online (although we are all counting down the days until Scouting can move back outside) and have adjusted to conducting meetings and trainings – and even getting merit badges – virtually. This year Patriot scouts earned 1,811 merit badges, many of which were earned virtually, and the district had 61 scouts earn the rank of Eagle. Patriot District also had the opportunity to form TWO new STEM Labs, which have started meeting, and they are looking to have even more youth join as it is the perfect made-for-home Scouting opportunity.

Many Council programs and trainings adapted to be virtual as well, including NCAC's Pow Wow trainings, a weekly action-packed training event for Cub Scout Leaders. At the next one, scheduled to be held on December 14, leaders can learn about BSA's newest program that is Social Distancing Friendly...STEM Labs!

Patriot District held its Annual Business Meeting (and first ever virtual one) on November 24th. All Members-at-Large and Charter Organization Representatives were invited to vote on the 2021 Committee Slate. Below are those nominated and approved to serve Patriot District this coming year.

District Chair: Bill Dexter

Vice Chair of Program: John Merchant

Vice Chair of Membership: John Stewart

Vice Chair of Finance: Kelly O'Malley

I wish everyone a cheerful and kind holiday season and will see you in 2021. Patriot District has already begun to plan for 2021's Pinewood Derby, Day Camp, and Fall Camporee!

Sarah McKee | Patriot District Executive
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Covid Guidance for NCAC Units Chartered in Virginia

As of November 18, 2020, Virginia’s Governor Northam has tightened Covid-19 restrictions related to group gatherings:

“All public and private in-person gatherings of more than 25 individuals are prohibited. The presence of more than 25 individuals performing functions of their employment or assembled in an educational instructional setting is not a “gathering.” A “gathering” includes, but is not limited to, parties, celebrations, or other social events, whether they occur indoors or outdoors.”

We have confirmed with the Virginia Department of Health **this restriction applies to Scout Unit meetings and activities.**

National Capital Area Council provides the following guidance for adhering to this restriction.

1. Continue to consult with your adult committee and chartered organization regarding all in-person unit meetings and activities.
2. Familiarize yourself with local and state COVID-19 requirements.
3. Employ general COVID-19 protocols as part of all Scouting meetings/activities
 - a. Everyone 5 years of age and above present at the activity wears a face covering
 - b. Wash hands and sanitize surfaces and equipment frequently
 - c. Maintain appropriate distance (at least 6 feet) at all times
 - d. Take participant temperatures before participation
 - e. Advise participants to stay home if they are sick
4. If your unit’s total participant count (including youth members, adult leaders, and family members) exceeds 25, take steps to be compliant with the restriction on gathering size:
 - a. Conduct meetings that do not require the full unit to gather together
 - b. When you do have meetings with the full group, hold them online using services like Zoom.
 - c. Here is an acceptable method for unit meetings, according to the Virginia Department of Health: Hold meeting in smaller cohorts, such as Dens or Patrols. If your meeting space permits, try to divide up the location so each cohort has their own space to meet. Cohorts should not intermingle. Do not assemble the full group together at any time. Always be sure each cohort has two-deep leadership.
 - d. If you have enough leadership, consider having cohorts meet at separate times on the same day or on different days.
 - e. Meet outdoors (weather permitting) where it is easier to maintain social distancing.

We understand this 25-person limit may be an obstacle for many large Scout units, particularly when planning full-unit meetings or activities. It is important to find ways to continue to provide the Scouting experience while ensuring the safety of our Scouts, leaders, and families. Please contact your District Executive if you have questions or need assistance solving challenges presented by this restriction.

NCAC will continue to update this situation as new information is made available.

The Checklist That Must be Used Before Holding Any In-Person Meetings



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.

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>

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.

Patriot District Events

Web Calendar: www.ncacbsa.org/patriot

December 2020

- 5 OA Lodge Leadership Development Conference (*virtual*)
- 8 Joint Commissioner and PD Committee Meeting (*virtual*)
- 10 Roundtable
- 10 Hanukkah Begins (sundown)
- 12-13 Wilderness First Aid, Camp Snyder
- 13 Patriot District OA Chapter Meeting (*virtual*)
- 25 Christmas
- 26 Kwanzaa Begins
- 31 Last Day for Online Popcorn Sales



January 2021

- 1 Happy New Year!
- 2 OA Lodge Banquet (*virtual*)
- 3 Patriot Press Deadline – January
- 10 Patriot District OA chapter meeting (*virtual*)
- 12 Commissioner Meeting (*virtual*)
- 14 Roundtable (*virtual*)
- 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 26 PD Committee Meeting (*virtual*)
- 31 Patriot Press Deadline – February

February 2021

- 9 Commissioner Meeting (*virtual*)
- 11 Roundtable (*virtual*)
- 14 Patriot District OA chapter meeting (*virtual*)
- 15 Presidents' Day
- 23 PD Committee Meeting (*virtual*)
- 27 University of Scouting (*virtual*)
- 28 Patriot Press Deadline – March

BALOO	Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation	NYLT	National Youth Leadership Training
BCOLS	Back Country Outdoor Leader Skills	OA	Order of the Arrow
CPST	Cubmaster Position-Specific Training	SPST	Scoutmaster Position-Specific Training
IOLS	Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills	VAPST	Venture Advisor Position-Specific Training
JSN	Join Scouting Night	VCPST	Varsity Coach Position-Specific Training
NLE	New Leader Essentials	VOA	Venturing Officers Association





All Cub Scout Leaders, Come Out and Join us for Fun & Fellowship and to Pick-Up some New Ideas for your Pack and Den Programs!

The Purpose of the Roundtable:

To provide the skill to do – skills, techniques, information, program ideas – and the know-how that makes for successful unit operation.

To provide unit leadership with the will to do – the morale, enthusiasm, inspiration, and vision that periodically renew the desire to serve youth.

When: Thursday, December 10, 2020

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

Midway: 7:30 PM (via Zoom) **Roundtable:** 8:00 – 9:00 PM (via Zoom)

Topics: Pinewood Derby, What Qualifies as a Scouting Activity, and Leader/Adult Awards and Recognitions.

Word of the month: Courteous

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



Patriot District Scouts BSA Roundtable

Not just for Scoutmasters

Thursday, December 10, 2020

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

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

Midway: 7:45 PM

Roundtable: 8:00 - 9:00 PM



Topics: **Mental Health Training and Why – For Leaders and Scouts**
OA – Elections and Update; Covid-19 Corner
Intro to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST) Review

Joe Margraf, Scouts BSA Roundtable Commissioner

(703) 314-1622, joedenisemargraf@aol.com

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

Patriot District Program News

A Review of 2020 from a Program Perspective

It was a challenging but surprisingly productive year:

- Patriot District conducted a very successful Pinewood Derby just before the “shutdown” in mid-March, with most Cub Scout Packs participating
- In late March, the OA was fairly rapidly able to switch to on-line unit visits and elections, conducting a records number of unit visits helping to elect a large class of over 90 candidates.
- Late June through August, Patriot volunteers, among many others, contributed to “Summer Camp At Home” with online merit badges, offering hundreds of merit badges over several weeks.
- Many of our Cub Scouts participated in the Council’s on-line, daily activities in lieu of in-person Day Camp. These activities included both indoor and outdoor activities in which the whole family could participate.
- Patriot volunteers, among others, helped to run program elements both at Snyder and Goshen for 5 weekends in July and August, offering both merit badge and summer camp type activities to families.
- Some units, recovering from canceled weeks at some high adventure bases, took advantage of a revised high adventure and almost normal summer camp opportunities at The Summit in West Virginia.
- Again, Patriot District volunteers, among others offered program elements at Camp Snyder for Family Camp once a month September through November.
- As a District, Patriot sponsored or participated in two District-wide food drives and may units participated in their own food drives or contributed to a county “Stuff the Bus” event, helping the area food banks.
- Most units continued to meet virtually on-line or in some instances outside at their normal meeting places.

Thanks to all who helped to make “Scouting Continues” through this challenging time successful.

For the future, we are actively planning for Pinewood Derby 2021, Day Camp 2021 and Fall Camporee 2021.

For program opportunities for units at all levels, visit the Council’s program Web site at <https://weownadventure.org> and Facebook page at <https://facebook.com/groups/ncacbsavolunteers/>

*John Merchant
Vice Chair, Program*



Patriot Chapter OA News Items



Chapter Meeting Sunday Afternoon
December 13, 3:30 PM via ZOOM

We will be preparing to start up the new election season and will be offering Election Training. We will also be looking for members to help with elections. Most will probably be virtual, but we want to hold a unit visit for every Scouts BSA unit, whether they have Scouts eligible for election or not.

Lodge Leadership Development Conference
(LLDC), Saturday December 5

The Lodge is hosting an LLDC via ZOOM on Saturday, December 5. It starts at 9:30 and has classes pretty much all day, ending about 4:00 PM. There are several tracks, including "New Member", "Finance and Administration", "Ceremonies" and others. There are three 40-minute sessions and three 20-minute sessions, and a couple of general sessions and games, to keep things interesting. A no-cost registration is required and is found at <https://wipit470.org>. After you register, the ZOOM information will be emailed to you.

Date	Event
2-Jan	Lodge Banquet
7-Feb	LEC
March 5 - 7	NLS/DYLC
7-March	LO&A
April 9 - 11	Lodge Fellowship and Elections
May 9 - 11	Patriot Spring Ordeal
2-May	LO&A
May 21 - 23	Section Conclave Henson Scout Reservation
5-June	LLDC and LEC
4-July	LO&A
July 19 - 30	National Scout Jamboree
6-Aug	Vigil Inductions
21-Aug	Lodge Pool Party and LEC
Sep 17 - 19	Fall Fellowship
3-Oct	LEC
7-Nov	LO&A
Nov 12 - 14	NLS/DYLC
26-Nov	Vigil Inductions
5-Dec	LEC

Service Hours

Please let us know your service hours for 2020. You may be awarded a Golden Tooth Award if you have sufficient hours. Service Hours must be spent serving Scouting or your community. Include Unit Projects including Eagle Projects, Ordeal Service, Volunteer hours staffing Community or Scouting events. Send a note to patriotchapter@wipit470.org with your name and the number of service hours you had in 2020 by Saturday, Dec. 5. [Sorry for the short notice]. If the number is greater than 50, please characterize the larger events. E.G. Volunteered as an instructor 4 hours a day for 10 days at the Community Center. This information needs to be reported to the Lodge next Sunday, December 6.



STEM Corner

Resources for Nova and Supernova Awards: <http://stemystuff.org/resources.html>

FAQ: From the national committee: You ask, we answer!

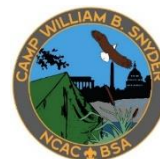
Q: Can Supernovas be earned in a group setting?

A: While Nova awards are often offered in a classroom setting, Supernova awards are meant to be earned individually, under the direct supervision of a Council-approved mentor. Small groups may work together at the Cub Scout level, but each Cub Scout must individually and personally complete each requirement; Supernova awards at the Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scout levels are intended to be completed individually (no group or classroom-style instruction). Absolutely all work for the Albert Einstein Supernova Award must be done on an individual basis, by the Scout and under the direct supervision of their Council-approved mentor.



Seeking Scoutmasters for Camp Snyder Merit Badge Week 2021

Scouters, we're looking for adult leaders with Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster experience to fill 10 positions, to guide up to 100 provisional overnight camping and 50-day camper Scouts BSA during the Camp Snyder Merit Badge Week of July 18-24, 2021. This camp will be conducted with NCAC approved COVID-19 virus transmission precautions.



As a temporary Scoutmaster, you will monitor and guide small provisional groups of Scouts BSA during the day and/or overnight. We need male and female Scoutmasters for the expected male and female mix of Scouts BSA who will be participating. Oversight in monitoring compliance with the camps COVID-19 virus transmission precautions will be particularly important.

During the day there will be adult led Merit Badge classes. Outside of the classroom, Scoutmasters will need to oversee dining inside and outside of the Marriott Dining Hall, as well as the fun activities, like the swimming pool and night-time campfires. Overnight Scoutmasters will camp with their provisional units in the Camp Snyder campsites.

This is an opportunity for former or current Scoutmasters or Assistants with a flexible schedule to serve our youth in a time of need! We desire Scoutmasters who can spend part or all of the week during the day and overnight but will certainly welcome those that can only serve during the day or overnight to fill these 10 around-the-clock positions.

If interested, please contact Rick Ferry, rt.ferry72@gmail.com or Dave Seitz, dbseitz@gmail.com



Michael's Woodshop News

Winter 2020-2021



Announcing Our 3rd Annual Pinewood Derby Days!

Michael's Woodshop has a great process to guide Cub Scouts step by step through the Pinewood Derby Car creation process. Cub Scouts can use their own design or can choose from many available design templates. Each Cub Scout will leave with a paint-ready car. There are several ways to participate in the fun:

Open Registration

Individuals or small groups can sign up for one of our open registration sessions. (Registration opens December 1)



Pack or Den Events

Packs or Dens may reserve Michael's Woodshop to hold their own pinewood derby event. (Requests currently being accepted)

For information about scheduling Pack or Den Events or to sign up for an Open Registration session, please visit the [Pinewood Derby Days page](#) on the Camp Snyder website (www.gotosnyder.org).

JUST LAUNCHED - Youth Apprentice Program

Our first Youth Apprentices have joined the Michael's Woodshop Team ([Read Article...](#)). Designed to provide opportunities for developing leadership and woodworking skills, this program is open to older BSA registered youth. Please visit the ["Volunteering" section of our website](#) for eligibility requirements and additional details.

Plan Now for Your 2021 Woodshop Events



Monthly Classes: Michael's Woodshop offers monthly **Woodwork Merit Badge** and **Woodworking 101** classes. Our spring classes can be viewed on the [Michael's Woodshop Calendar](#). Class registrations open in January.

Schedule Your Own Event: Michael's Woodshop may be reserved by units for a wide range of activities. Our Shop Stewards are available to help organize your event. Pick a project from our [Project Idea List](#) or develop your own. Visit our webpage to learn how to reserve the shop. 2021 Unit reservations have already begun!

It Was a Busy Fall in Michael's Woodshop!

- Michael's Woodshop hosted 22 family groups in the shop during the **Family Camping Weekends**. Family members picked projects from a variety of offerings and everyone left with a successfully completed project!
- This fall, Michael's Woodshop hosted 15 **Woodwork Merit Badge sessions**. While a challenging merit badge to earn, seven Scouts completed all of the requirements and many more are in process!
- **Schedule Your Own Event** activities were in full swing this fall. Michael's Woodshop hosted 7 unit activities from Bear Dens to Scout Troops. A popular activity was the Cub Scout Tool Box with over 25 built!
- Michael's Woodshop hosted three **Eagle Scout Projects** this fall. The Woodshop is a great venue with the tools and workspace to handle a broad range of projects. Contact us to reserve the shop for your project!

For more about upcoming events, planning an event, reserving the shop, or our Covid-19 Guidelines, please visit the [Michael's Woodshop web page](#) or email us at MichaelsWoodshop.CWBS@gmail.com

Is Santa Claus a Scout?

To answer this perplexing question, let's examine how he stacks up against the Scout Law:

- **Trustworthy:** You certainly can trust that Santa will show up every year.
- **Loyal:** He's very dedicated to his craft and his mission. Imagine how disappointed so many people would be if he was not loyal to his followers.
- **Helpful:** He saves many a father from last-minute shopping. Dads are notorious for leaving things to the last minute. Just ask mom.
- **Friendly:** How many adults would let a zillion kids sit on their lap and listen to what they would like for presents. And he smiles while doing it!
- **Courteous:** He always says thank you for the billions of calories he takes in with the milk and cookies he is given on his visits.
- **Kind:** Delivering gifts to children each year is a great act of kindness.
- **Obedient:** Mrs. Claus provided input for this one. After being married for so many hundreds of years, she says he almost always does what she tells him to do!
- **Cheerful:** Ho! Ho! Ho! It doesn't get more cheerful than that!
- **Thrifty:** Santa makes all of his own toys. That saves a bundle on shipping alone.
- **Brave:** Would you get in a magic sleigh pulled by reindeer and fly all around the world? Now that is being brave in the extreme!
- **Clean:** Not sure how he does it, but that bright red and white suit looks clean even after going up and down millions of chimneys.
- **Reverent:** Santa does his wonderful thing on a special night as part of a very special religious holiday.

So there you have it. Is Santa Claus a Scout? There can be no doubt. This time of year, no matter what holiday you celebrate, remember that doing your best and living the Scout Oath and Scout Law makes each of a truly a Scout.



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to All!

B-P Still Wants You!



To Join the Patriot District Committee Great Jobs for Great Volunteers

Take your Scouting leadership to an exciting and rewarding new level.

Work with other great Scouters providing great programs for great Scouts.

Contact Bill Dexter: wtdexterjr@gmail.com

The Patriot Press, Patriot District National Capital Area Council

The Patriot Press is the monthly newsletter of the Patriot District, NCAC, Scouts BSA. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the official policies of the National Capital Area Council or Scouts BSA. This newsletter is provided eleven times each year (not in July) and posted at <http://www.ncacbsa.org/PatriotPress>

Deadline for articles to be included in *The Patriot Press* is two Sundays prior to Roundtable. Articles for publication, in MS Word, may be emailed to the editor at bsnowden419@gmail.com.

Key District Contacts

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA SCOUTER CODE OF CONDUCT

On my honor, I promise to do my best to comply with this Boy Scouts of America Scouter Code of Conduct while serving in my capacity as an adult leader:

- 1. I have completed or will complete my registration with the Boy Scouts of America, answering all Questions truthfully and honestly.**
- 2. I will do my best to live up to the Scout Oath and Scout Law, obey all laws, and hold others in Scouting accountable to those standards. I will exercise sound judgment and demonstrate good leadership and use the Scouting program for its intended purpose consistent with the mission of the Boy Scouts of America.**
- 3. I will make the protection of youth a personal priority. I will complete and remain current with Youth Protection training requirements. I will be familiar with and follow:**
 - BSA Youth Protection policies and guidelines, including mandatory reporting: www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/
 - The Guide to Safe Scouting: www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss
 - The Sweet Sixteen of BSA Safety: www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/sweet16
- 4. When transporting youth, I will obey all laws, comply with Youth Protection guidelines, and follow safe driving practices.**
- 5. I will respect and abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Boy Scouts of America, BSA policies, and BSA-provided training, including but not limited to those relating to:**
 - Unauthorized fundraising activities
 - Advocacy on social and political issues, including prohibited use of the BSA uniform and brand
 - Bullying, hazing, harassment, and unlawful discrimination of any kind
- 6. I will not discuss or engage in any form of sexual conduct while engaged in Scouting activities. I will refer youth with questions regarding these topics to talk to their parents or spiritual advisor.**
- 7. I confirm that I have fully disclosed and will disclose in the future any of the following:**
 - Any criminal suspicion, charges, or convictions of a crime or offense involving abuse, violence, sexual misconduct, or any misconduct involving minors or juveniles
 - Any investigation or court order involving domestic violence, child abuse, or similar matter
 - Any criminal charges or convictions for offenses involving controlled substances, driving while intoxicated, firearms, or dangerous weapons
- 8. I will not possess, distribute, transport, consume, or use any of the following items prohibited by law or in violation of any Scouting rules, regulations, and policies:**
 - Alcoholic beverages or controlled substances, including marijuana
 - Concealed or unconcealed firearms, fireworks, or explosives
 - Pornography or materials containing words or images inconsistent with Scouting values
- 9. If I am taking prescription medications with the potential of impairing my functioning or judgment, I will not engage in activities that would put youth at risk, including driving or operating equipment.**
- 10. I will take steps to prevent or report any violation of this code of conduct by others in connection with Scouting activities.**

SCOUT OATH

On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
And to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
Mentally awake, and morally straight.

SCOUT LAW

Trustworthy
Loyal
Helpful
Friendly
Courteous
Kind
Obedient
Cheerful
Thrifty
Brave
Clean
Reverent

