



Volume 25
Patriot District

The Patriot Press

January 2022
National Capital Area Council



Issue 1
Boy Scouts of America

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From the District Chairman

Last Sunday I was outside in my front yard wearing a long sleeve shirt – no sweater or jacket – and the temperature was in the 60s. I saw the daffodils beginning to sprout out of the ground. The next day, the temperature was in the 20s, my yard was covered in over 8 inches of snow, my power was out, and the daffodils were hidden. I had already unpacked my Scouts BSA mummy sleeping bag to use that night to stay warm. I was cold but I wasn't worried. With my battery-operated lantern to provide light and my sleeping bag to provide warmth, I knew my wife and I would make it. I also knew in three months the flowers would bloom and Scouting would shift from Winter events to outdoor Spring activities.

Covid 19 is less predictable than the weather, but it is our intention to safely return to the Scouting program later this Winter and in the Spring. Some major events may need to be modified or postponed, but unlike in 2021, we do not plan to cancel any. The first major upcoming activity in the NCAC is the University of Scouting. It is an incredible training activity for all Scout adults and offers over a hundred courses on many aspects of Scouting at various levels. It will take place on Saturday, February 26th, in person at Hayfield High School. There also will be a virtual presentation for individuals who prefer to attend in that way. Everyone who attends leaves a better trained Scout leader at the end of the day. Registration will open on Black Pug soon.

The District Pinewood Derby returns this year. It will be held on Saturday March 5th at Living Savior Lutheran Church. The event is fantastic, and we happily announce we plan to again hold it in person. Registration will open on Black Pug in two weeks. The event Chairman is Peter Griffiths. If you have any questions or concerns, he can be contacted at Pinewoodderby@gmail.com or (571) 466-8679.

January is the month for units to lock in their summer camp plans by deciding what they want to do, and where and when they want to go. Units that register in January usually will get their first choice and qualify for the reduced "Early Bird Special Pricing." We ask Troops BSA to consider attending Goshen Scout Reservation for their main summer camping experience. Over the last few years Goshen has made many improvements and updated its programs, and it is now considered a premier summer camp on the East Coast. Unfortunately, more "out of Council" troops attend Goshen than NCAC units. While we welcome visiting units, we developed the camp to serve our own Scouts. John Merchant, Vice Chair for Program, is our summer camp point of contact for all summer camps, including Goshen. He can be contacted at (703) 489-7906 or merchantj@verizon.net.

For Cub Scouts, Patriot District will hold its Day Camp the week of July 11–15, 2022. The camp will be held at Occoquan Regional Park and feature a "Superheroes" theme. The camp will include a climbing wall, archery, sling shot shooting and STEM activities. There will be numerous other activities that will prepare Cub Scouts to become Superheroes. Registration with the "Early Bird Special Pricing" will open soon. The Director for Day Camp is Zora Sharief; she can be contacted at (202) 944-0114 or zohra.sharief@muslimscouting.org.

Forget the harsh weather because Spring will arrive. Develop safety measures so we can conduct programming during Covid 19. Most importantly, "Let's go Scouting in 2022."

Bill Dexter
Patriot District Committee Chair





From the District Commissioner

Happy New Year! I hope everyone's holidays were both happy and healthy. Sometimes it feels like we're living in the Bill Murray movie [Groundhog Day](#) when it comes to Covid-19. We were looking forward to finally restarting live/hybrid Roundtables as early as this month, but the emergence of the Omicron variant, coupled with the number of participants who are either high risk, or who have family members who are high risk or ineligible for vaccination/boosters, has caused us to once again put that plan on hold. We will hold the [January 13 Roundtable on Zoom](#), and will make decisions about future Roundtables on a month-to-month basis. Thanks to the dedication and creativity of our Roundtable team, our Zoom Roundtables have been successful in delivering good information to our Scout leaders. Note also that BSA has issued [updated Covid FAQs](#) that address a number of issues, including advancement.

The large majority of our units have completed rechartering, and I again thank everyone for their patience with the new system. There are a handful of units who have been unable to complete rechartering because of technical glitches, and we're working hard to resolve those issues. I would especially like to thank Deputy District Commissioner Lee Cass and the Unit Commissioner corps for doing a fantastic job leading the rechartering process!

Units that have not already completed the [Journey to Excellence](#) self-assessment should coordinate with your Unit Commissioner or me to complete and turn in the scorecard. JTE is a fantastic way to benchmark your unit and identify areas for improvement so you can offer the best possible program to your Scouts. Your Scouts deserve the best!

For AOLs and their families who are looking for a Troop to join this year, [Troop flyers from our November virtual Road to Scouting Program](#) are still available. We also hope to put on a live, outdoor, District-wide Scouts BSA recruiting event the afternoon of March 20 mainly targeting area boys and girls in 6th grade and middle school who are not currently in Scouting. Webelos Scouts who want to get a jump on selecting a Troop are, of course, also invited. Stay tuned for more details next month.

It's the season for Blue & Gold banquets and winter Courts of Honor. Please let District Executive Bobby Walker (Bobby.Walker@scouting.org) know when your B&G or CoH is going to be. He wants to visit as many Packs and Troops as he can to get to know our District and its great people. We would also like to schedule a *short* (I promise) [Friends of Scouting](#) presentation at that event or another time that works for your unit.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming [University of Scouting](#) at Hayfield Secondary on February 26. It's the best one-day Scout leader training program you'll find anywhere. This year there's both a live and an online option. [Registration is open now](#).

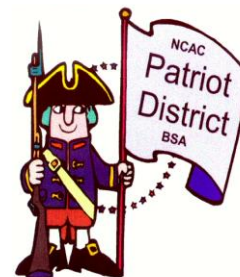
Stay healthy, stay engaged, and Scout on in 2022!

Ken Gaul
Patriot District Commissioner



Patriot District Events

Web Calendar: www.ncacbsa.org/patriot



January 2022

- 1 New Year's Day
- 8 OA Lodge Banquet
- 8-9 Wilderness First Aid Training (Camp Snyder)
- 11 Commissioner Meeting (*Remote*)
- 13 Roundtable (*Remote*)
- 14-17 NYLT Winter Session, Part 1 (Camp Snyder)
- 17 Martin Luther King Day
- 21-23 NYLT Winter Session, Part 2 (Camp Snyder)
- 27 PD Committee Meeting (*Remote*)

February 2022

- 5 YMHFA Training
- 8 Commissioner Meeting
- 10 Roundtable
- 12 Life to Eagle Seminar (*Remote*)
- 12-13 Wilderness First Aid Training (Camp Snyder)
- 13 OA Chapter Meeting
- 21 Presidents' Day
- 22 PD Committee Meeting
- 26 NCAC University of Scouting

March 2022

- 5 Patriot District Pinewood Derby
- 5 BCOLS Training, Part 1
- 8 Commissioner Meeting
- 10 Roundtable
- 12 NCAC Commissioner College
- 12-13 Wilderness First Aid Training (Camp Snyder)
- 13 OA Chapter Meeting
- 20 Scouts BSA Recruiting Event (*Tentative*)
- 22 PD Committee Meeting

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.

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Remote 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: Blue and Gold, AOL Crossover, COVID Updates, Volunteer Recognition

Word of the month: Obedient

Bring a treat to enjoy while we meet!

*Cory Okouchi, Cub Scout Roundtable –
cweskridge@gmail.com*



Patriot District Scouts BSA Roundtable

Not just for Scoutmasters

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Remote Meeting: Connection instructions will be sent via e

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

Midway: 7:45 PM, **Roundtable:** 8:00 - 9:00 PM

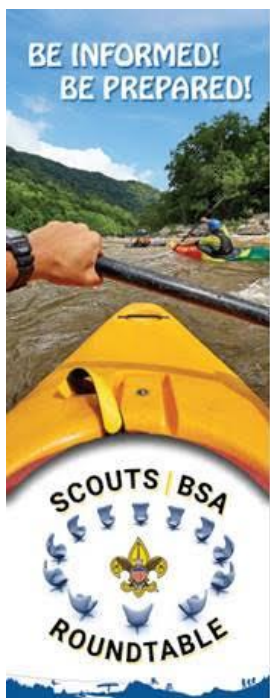
Please invite another leader from your Troop to join us at Roundtable!

Topics: Citizenship in Society - Newest Eagle Required Merit Badge
Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST) Review

Joe Margraf, Scouts BSA Roundtable Commissioner

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

Asst. Scouts BSA RT Commissioner: Rick Priest



Scouter Interview: Sokhom Kith

Patrick Ring

Sokhom Kith is a member of the Patriot District Committee who serves as the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) coordinator for the District, a position he has held for several years; he is also a member of the NCAC STEM Committee. He also serves as an Assistant Scoutmaster and the Eagle Scout advisor for Troop 1533. A member of the Order of the Arrow, he earned his Wood Badge beads in 2016.



Sokhom emigrated to the United States from Cambodia in 1980 at the age of 17 after escaping death in the infamous killing fields, which claimed the life of more than a million people after the Cambodian Civil War. He initially settled in Arlington, where he lived with his foster parents, attended high school, and earned his diploma as one of the top students of his 1983 class. He subsequently earned his associate degree in engineering from Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) in 1984; and BS (Virginia Tech, 1986), and MS degrees (George Washington University, 1991) in Electrical Engineering. He works as a senior electronics engineer at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory and is a registered Professional Engineer in Virginia. Sokhom is married to another killing fields survivor, and together they have raised three amazing sons, two of whom are Eagle Scouts, with the youngest following in his brothers' footsteps.

Patrick Ring (PR): How and when did you first become involved in Scouting, and then later volunteer to serve as the District STEM Coordinator?

Sokhom Kith (SK): Back in Cambodia, Scouting is part of the elementary school curriculum. In the United States, I got involved in Scouting when our first child, Camerin, joined Pack 1864 as a Tiger in 2007. I assisted in the Pinewood Derby (PWD) car race events and eventually served as the PWD Coordinator for Pack 1864 and Pack 656 (GM District) over the last decade. When Camerin crossed over to Troop 1533, he was interested in earning the STEM Nova Awards, and at that time, I was unfamiliar with the program. I then started attending the NCAC STEM Committee monthly meeting at the Marriot Scout Service Center in Bethesda to familiarize myself with STEM in Scouting, and I volunteered to be the Troop 1533 STEM Coordinator. My vision and part of the traditional ticket of leadership goals for Wood Badge is that STEM is an integral part of the Scouting program, complementary to the Trail to Eagle. Around the same time, Kristin Chioma, PD Advancement Chair, asked me to serve as the Patriot District STEM Coordinator.

PR: What are your principal duties and responsibilities as the District STEM Coordinator?

SK: The District STEM Coordinator serves as the point of contact for Scouts from all units, including Packs, Troops and Crews, to help promote and deliver STEM programs. I am also aware of all STEM activities offered within the local area, serve as a mentor in assisting Scouts in exploring their scientific wonders, and help with the process of submitting the Supernova applications and answering questions from the Scouts, their mentors, and their parents. I have fun as the Troop 1533 STEM Coordinator since I am able to help Scouts with ideas and earn the Nova and Supernova Awards. I appreciate having the opportunity to learn from the young minds, to observe their curiosity and innovative simple solutions generated to solve complex problems.

PR: You've been involved in organizing the District's two STEM labs. What can you tell us about what their recent and ongoing activities? How many Scouts are participating in these special units?

SK: The two STEM Lab units consist of the Junior Lab 605 (grades 3-5) and Tech Lab 6022 (grades 6-8). They are the direct result of a pilot program adopted by NCAC in 2018. Membership of the two labs has doubled from the previous year to 17 and 10 for Labs 605 and 6022, respectively.

STEM Scouts is a coed program designed to provide youth to focus on a fast-paced academic channel in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in a real-world and hands-on fun learning environment. Participating youth have the opportunity to explore their natural wonders, and it encourages their curiosity and experiential discovery, ethical and moral decision making, collaborative leadership, characters, group identity, and recognition.

The program offers an experience for all youth through well-planned variety-themed modules in the laboratory setting. The COVID-19 adapted version is structured into five non-repeatable modules and is delivered in four weekly hybrid (in-person and remote) sessions to provide flexible attendance. The two Labs meet in separate one-hour sessions on Mondays 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Burke Center Conservancy. At the end of 2021, we completed two of five modules – Wildlife and Aerodynamics for the Junior Lab, Microbiology and Chemistry for the Tech Lab.

We look forward to delivering the last three modules – Engineering, Archaeology, and Bubbleology for the Junior Lab; Criminal Forensics, Science Behind the Sport and Astronomy for the Tech Lab.

PR: What are the principal challenges you face as our STEM Coordinator?

SK: Altering the perspective that STEM programs go hand-in-hand with advancement to Eagle rank, as opposed to being in competition with each other; and convincing the youth that STEM is as much fun, entertaining, and rewarding as playing sports or video games.

PR: What new ideas or suggestions do you have for improving the District’s STEM program?

SK: Every unit needs a STEM Coordinator to work with the youth and adult leadership to integrate STEM and Nova activities into the program. Troops and Crews should come together to create competition at the unit level and advance to the District and the Council level, such as car race competitions for Scout BSA, or the robotics competition.

PR: The STEM Shack at Camp Snyder is currently an underutilized facility that could serve as a valuable asset in promoting STEM activities for Patriot District Scouts at all levels, as well as for Scouts throughout the Council. How might we develop a vision and an implementation plan to fully realize its potential?

SK: Located in the outskirt suburb area of Northern Virginia, Camp Snyder is a strategic location where STEM education can be developed to its full potential. To name a few: with its low light pollution, the facility could be expanded to include an observation tower for optical telescopes, and being outside the restricted airspace of Washington, DC it provides space for drone operation and rocketry activities.

Collaboration with local community colleges and research facilities promotes a smooth transition for post-secondary education and beyond for diverse young people who might not otherwise have access to BSA. Mentorships between students of young explorers and the working professionals’ researchers can also be fostered to increase work-based learning, job training, deepen the research project efforts, and improve the STEM literacies and increase the pipeline for the national workforce.

PR: Is there anything else regarding the BSA and our District’s STEM program that you would like to share with fellow Patriot District Scouters?

SK: I notice the level of participation fades as Scouts get older, and they have more “stuff” on their plates to choose. I would encourage the unit to form new Lab units or join the existing ones as most of the tasks to operate the STEM Scouts planning lessons and kits are included in the Scout registration fee. Another way to encourage more participation is to inspire Scouts interested in STEM Merit Badges to extend their learning into Nova and Supernova awards. The merit badge counselors can continue as Supernova mentors. The Explorer clubs will bridge the gap of post-secondary academic level. Once Scouts get “hooked” on STEM, they tend to stay on the path beyond and into their college years.

Patrick Ring is a Member at Large of the Patriot District Committee

Friends of Scouting 2022 Campaign Start

The annual Friends of Scouting (FOS) campaign for NCAC began on December 1, 2021. All donations made or pledged to NCAC since that date will be credited to the 2022 campaign. FOS is an annual giving campaign for the National Capital Area Council that provides funding to ensure a quality Scouting program for every youth. FOS is the largest source of income for the Council.

Critical to a successful FOS campaign in our Patriot District is support from the Troops and Packs in the District. Specifically, units are requested to support the campaign by:

- Scheduling a presentation to the parents of the unit. This presentation usually takes place at a Court of Honor at the Troop level and the Blue and Gold dinner at the Pack level. The presentation by a District presenter takes between 10 to 15 minutes, including a question-and-answer period. The presentation must be scheduled with our District Executive, Bobby Walker at Bobby.Walker@Scouting.org or by phone at (434)429-4112 by February 1st, with the presentation held prior to April 30th.
- Appointing a unit FOS coordinator who will coordinate with the District presenter concerning the logistics of the presentation and then follow up with parents after the presentation to facilitate donations.

As an incentive for units to support the FOS campaign, Council will provide free unit rank advancement for all units that schedule the presentation by February 1st. This is easy since units just need to schedule the presentation. The actual presentation can be held later. Next, the unit must show growth from the 2021 campaign. This also is easy since the funds donated in 2021 were very low compared to previous years. Lastly, units need to have a 50% family participation rate. Each family is asked to be generous, but for families in difficult financial times only a small token donation is requested.

The Patriot District staff thanks the units in advance for supporting the 2022 FOS Campaign and we look forward to visiting each unit and working with all families. It is a new year for Scouting and change is coming!



Patriot District Program News

Wilderness First Aid Offered at Camp Snyder

Presented by the NCAC Camps, the Outdoor Preparedness Initiative (OPI) offers Wilderness First Aid certification with CPR/AED. OPI aims to prepare Scouts, Scouters, and outdoor enthusiasts for high adventure activities and other outdoor adventures. Certification is provided through the American Red Cross.



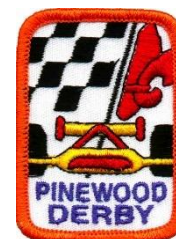
This two-day course will offer day-only instruction on Saturday from 7:30 AM – 8:00 PM and Sunday from 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM. There will not be an overnight stay involved. Participants should bring their own lunch / snacks each day.

Dates currently offered: February 12-13, March 12-13, April 9-10.

Registration: <https://scoutingevent.com/082-53087>

Cub Scouts: Help Available at Camp Snyder for Pinewood Derby Cars

The Michael's Woodshop staff at Camp Snyder have a process for helping individual Scouts or Den-size groups get started designing and fine-tuning their Pinewood Derby Cars. Check out their web site at <https://www.gotosnyder.org/year-round-events/woodshop-activities/> If your Den or Pack would rather build cars themselves, the site also provides some helpful documents with tips and techniques.



Back-Country Outdoor Leadership Skills (BCOLS)

BCOLS is a course that focuses on developing leadership skills to work with older youth. Registration is now open for the Spring 2022 course at <https://scoutingevent.com/082-53132>. There is an all-day classroom element and a weekend back-country element. The next course is in Maryland. The classroom session will be held on March 5, and the overnight session is on April 23-24. Click the link below for more details.



<https://public.3.basecamp.com/p/75MAzN5LFLixzB62YvMDAa7T>

Registration is Open for Goshen 2022

Beautiful Goshen Scout Reservation includes three Scouts BSA Camps, a High Adventure Base, and a Webelos Camp, all located on the shores of Lake Merriweather.

Camp Olmsted: Meals are served in the beautiful dining hall; STEM programs are found in the Tech Center, and a full merit badge program is offered.



Camp Bowman: This camp is one of the last BSA Camps to offer week-long patrol cooking, providing “real” camping. Patrols really grow during the week here as they share camp duties. A full selection of merit badges is offered here, as older Scout programs and Troop and Patrol opportunities.

Camp Marriott: This camp offers a “heater stack” meal plan and lots of merit badges; it also has a specialty week focusing on Eagle-required merit badges. It offers Guild Craft opportunities such as welding, metalwork, and others.

Camp Ross: This camp welcomes Webelos Scouts and AOLs. Its dining hall is beautiful, and the Camp offers advancement and lots of action areas, including a waterfront on the lake with fun-yaks, archery, BB’s, handicrafts, and others.

Lenhok’sin High Adventure offers a backpacking program for those at least 13 years old, with action and interpretive outposts. Action outposts include caving, climbing, stand-up paddleboarding, and kayaking. Interpretive outposts include mountain man, foxfire, and Robin Hood.

Visit <https://gotogoshen.org> for open weeks, detailed program descriptions, and registration information.

Youth wondering what to do next summer?

If a Scout is unable to join your unit for your Summer Camp week or wants more, there are lots of additional opportunities:

- **Provisional Weeks Camping at Goshen** – check out <https://gotogoshen.org>. Also, Camp Snyder has a Specialty Scouts BSA provisional week July 17 – 23, 2022. Check out: <https://gotosnyder.org/summer-camp/specialty-week/>
- **Join a Council Contingent to a high Adventure base** (There are minimum age requirements.) Check out 2022 offerings at <https://public.3.basecamp.com/p/KdUdERNqwgJKjCWtVJ5ZMK6e>
- If your Scout is at least 14, he or she can **be a Counsellor**. See separate article below.
- If your Scout is a member of the OA, **try OA High Adventure**, including Goshen’s OA Trail Crew (GOAT). Check out the following: <https://oa-bsa.org/high-adventure> and <https://wipit470.org/goat.html>.

Camp Staff: One of the Best (and most Challenging) Jobs You’ll Ever Love

Goshen’s three Scouts BSA Camps (Bowman, Marriott, and Olmsted), its Webelos Scouts Camp (Ross), its High Adventure Camp (Lenhok’sin), and Camp Snyder are accepting applications for Counselors and Counselors In Training (CITs). To be a paid counselor, a Scout must be at least 15 years old; to be a CIT he or she must be at least 14. Commissioners and some Program Area Directors must be at least 18 years old, other Area Directors must be at least 21. CITs are generally rotated around to different program areas to gain experience. You will receive training and be provided housing, food, and experiences of a lifetime.

Applications and more information can be found at <https://gotogoshen.org/staff> and <https://gotosnyder.org/work-volunteer/summer-camp-staff/>

Mark your Calendars:

- February 26 – University of Scouting, Hayfield Secondary School, Alexandria
- March 5 – District Pinewood Derby (Living Savior Lutheran Church)
- April 1-3 Patriot/Prince William Spring Camporee, Syria VA. Fishing Derby Theme

John Merchant
Vice Chair, Program





OA NEWS ITEMS



Preparing for Election Season

Order of the Arrow Unit visits / OA Elections officially began in December but ramps up in January and February. Each Scout's BSA Unit Key-3 was sent a letter identifying the eligibility requirements for Scouts and nomination requirements for adults. We also sent a roster of current members for that unit and a listing of Scouts who remain candidates for induction, but have not completed their Ordeal. Order of the Arrow members are members of your units; they are not a group apart; their priority is to support the unit.

- We need each unit to help with elections and communications and this is done by the following:
- Schedule your unit's election to take place before March 15th.
- Appoint an OA youth member in your unit to the position of Unit OA Representative (UOAR) and an adviser to work with that Scout. The primary function of the UOAR is to act as a communications link between the Chapter and the Unit. UOAR duties include:
 - ✓ Participating in monthly OA meetings (the Second Sunday of each month 3:00 – 4:30 PM),
 - ✓ Encouraging OA Members to pay their dues,
 - ✓ Participating in Lodge and Chapter events when it does not interfere with Unit events.
 - ✓ Informing unit members of opportunities associated with the OA, such as the National OA Conference, OA High Adventure, and other opportunities beyond the unit.

Virtual Campouts conducted after December 2021 will no longer be able to be counted toward the 15 nights of camping requirement. However, those elected in 2021 will still have two years to complete their Ordeal.

2022 OA Dues Are Now Due

Payment site for 2022 Dues is now open at <https://wipit470.org/dues.html>

NOTE: For those who completed their Ordeal in Fall 2021, your dues through 2022 are already paid, it was part of the cost of the Ordeal. Ignore the **Passport** option; it has expired. Dues are \$14 until 1 April 2022 when they rise to \$16. The Chapter budget gets credited with \$2.00 for each member who pays their dues before 1 April 2022. Last year we received \$334, which helps pay for our Chapter Meeting refreshments and other activities.

Amangamek-Wipit Lodge



Lodge Banquet

The annual Lodge Banquet scheduled for January 8th at University of Maryland was postponed; the status of the pandemic and nature of the event made the risk unacceptable. The primary purpose of the Lodge Banquet is to serve as a court of Honor to recognize those individuals who have completed their Vigil the previous year, and those individuals and chapters that achieved National and local Honors. The Lodge and Areas are considering other dates, venues, and formats to hold these recognition events.

NOAC 2022

The National Order of the Arrow Conference is scheduled for July 25 – July 30, 2022. It will be held at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. The conference is a week full of training, shows, making connections with members from across the country, and a lot of fun and games. The Lodge is organizing buses, patches, and other things for the NCAC's Amangamek-Wipit Lodge. If interested, check the Lodge web site for more information at <https://wipit470.org/noac.html>. You can also download a brochure from there.



Advancement Notes

As of March 1, 2022, all temporary changes made to Scouts BSA advancement requirements to address the COVID-19 pandemic will expire, and there will be a return to the standard rules for Scouts BSA advancement. This includes deferment of some swimming requirements for First and Second class, virtual activities for Tenderfoot, Second and First Class, and requirement 9b of the Camping merit badge.

We have a new merit badge. Presently the Citizenship in Society merit badge will be available for Scouts to earn on an optional basis. However, the badge will become required for the rank of Eagle Scout on July 1, 2022, allowing Life Scouts to continue working on current requirements until June 30, 2022. Starting July 1, 2022, Eagle Scout candidates must earn the new Citizenship in Society merit badge. That will be 21 merit badges in total - 14 required and 7 electives.

The goal of the Citizenship in Society merit badge is to help educate Scouts on what diversity, equity, and inclusion are; why they are important; and how to lead ethically and inclusively to contribute to the cultivation of an environment of belonging for all Scouts. This merit badge is one of the educational and awareness initiatives the BSA is implementing to ensure every youth feels welcomed and wholly included, to achieve a sense of belonging with the Scouts, and to prepare them for success in our ever-evolving world.

Keep an eye out for a new Life to Eagle seminar coming on Zoom on February 12TH at 9:00 a.m. Signup will be announced as we get closer.

Tom Tyra
Advancement Chair



Patriot District Training Updates

Welcome to a new year and new training opportunities! Our first big training opportunity is coming up on February 26th at Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria when we gather for the 2022 version of the University of Scouting. At the moment, the plan is still for the event to be in-person, but as we know things are subject to change and there is a possibility that the event will move fully online. If you would like to attend the in-person event, you can register now at https://scoutingevent.com/082-uos_inperson. This year, there is also an on-line version if you cannot attend the in-person version. The on-line version has a set curriculum but it provides an opportunity to participate. You can learn more about the courses being offered and register at https://scoutingevent.com/082-uos_virtual.

I know a lot of units are waiting for the dates for IOLS and BALOO. We will announce them as soon as possible, so please stand by as we try to work out dates.

Registration for the Spring 2022 Wood Badge course is now open and filling fast. If you have not taken Wood Badge before, now is the time to do it! If you haven't considered taking Wood Badge, I would encourage you to learn more about the opportunity. It is well worth the time to attend, and you and your unit will be all the better for it. The course will be held April 29-May 1 and May 14-15, and registration can be found at <https://scoutingevent.com/082-49317>

For those of you who have attended Wood Badge, the training opportunities don't stop there! The next step is to attend Leadership Challenge. The Leadership Challenge takes the concepts introduced in Wood Badge and has you apply them in real-world scenarios set in the outdoors. It is also a fantastic opportunity to network with Scouters from all over the country. There are two courses a year, with one being offered at Summit-Bechtel and one at Philmont. In 2022, the Summit's course will be June 19-25 and Philmont's course will be September 18-24. If you have any questions about this course, please reach out and I will share my experience on the course.

Summit Leadership Challenge: <https://www.summitbsa.org/programs/training/seven-day-conferences/summit-leadership-challenge-2/>

Philmont Leadership Challenge: <https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc/plc/>

As we all know, training isn't just for the adults. Our youth deserve amazing training opportunities as well, and I am happy to say that the Council is busy putting together a number of courses for NYLT (National Youth Leadership Training). They will be offering a Winter course and four courses over the summer. Registration for the Summer courses is coming soon. The Winter course is already full with a waitlist, but if you would like to add your Scout to the list, you can register at <https://scoutingevent.com/082-51969-136865>

As with the adults, the training opportunities don't stop with NYLT. Youth also have a course similar to the Leadership Challenge called NAYLE (National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience). NAYLE takes the concepts introduced in NYLT and challenges participating youth with real world scenarios to practice those leadership concepts. As with the Leadership Challenge, NAYLE is offered at both the Summit and Philmont. For 2022, the Summit is running two courses on June 19-25 and July 3-9. Philmont is running six courses weekly from June 19 to July 24. For more information on NAYLE, the links are:

Summit: <https://www.summitbsa.org/programs/training/seven-day-conferences/nayle>

Philmont: <https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc/nayle/>

Finally, don't forget that you can attend training put on by any district. If one of our Patriot District trainings doesn't work for your schedule, be sure to check out the Council's calendar to see what else is available. The Council calendar can be found at the following link: <https://www.ncacbsa.org/calendar/>

Justin Day
Training Chair
patriottrainingbsa@gmail.com



YMHFA Training is Coming Back!!

If a Scout in your unit committed suicide you would be devastated. No doubt you would vow to do everything in your power to stop such an event from ever happening in your, or another, unit ever again. The time to make that vow is **NOW** – before something happens!!

As we are all painfully aware, mental health issues including depression, feelings of helplessness and loneliness, being bullied and thoughts of suicide are no stranger to the youth we support and have been exacerbated by the current crisis and remote education. As adult volunteer Scout leaders it is incumbent upon us to know how to recognize and respond to the signs of mental illness and duress. This knowledge can literally be the difference between life and death. ***Please*** learn how you can help!!

The next session will be held on **Saturday, February 5th**, remotely, from 10 AM – 4:30 PM with a break for lunch. It will be taught by a member of the Fairfax County Community Service Board (CSB) team. The class limit is 20 participants, so please sign up quickly. The next session will likely be offered sometime in April.

- Register with Mark Greer at mfgreer@verizon.net and include your mailing address and a good phone number.
- The cost is \$26. Once you register, you'll be told where to send the check.
- There is a mandatory 2-3 hours of prep reading that **MUST** be completed in advance of attending the class.
- Registration provides you access to the national web-site for the YMHFA Foundation where all course materials and the prep reading will be found.
- You must use a full-size computer/laptop with a camera, mic, and speakers. You are expressly asked not to use a phone or other handheld device. Please no multi-tasking.
- All participants will receive a YMHFA certificate of completion and an NCAC sanctioned patch demonstrating achievement

Don't miss out! Don't Wait! We can only serve 20 students in each class. Please register now for this essential training. To register, send an email Mark Greer at mfgreer@verizon.net. Mark can also answer any questions you may have.





Michael's Woodshop News Winter 2021-22



Our 4th Annual Pinewood Derby Days are Underway!

Michael's Woodshop has a great process to guide Cub Scouts through the Pinewood Derby Car creation process. 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 is now open)

Pack or Den Events

Packs or Dens may reserve Michael's Woodshop to hold their own pinewood derby event. (Remaining dates are limited – inquire soon)



Visit the [Pinewood Derby Days page](#) to learn more.

Plan Now for Your 2022 Woodshop Events

Monthly Classes: Michael's Woodshop offers a variety of monthly classes including merit badge classes and specialty classes. Registration for 2022 classes opens in January. Use the Upcoming Events link to learn more.



Schedule Your Own Event: Michael's Woodshop may be reserved by Scouts or Units for a wide range of activities including Eagle Scout projects, BALOO the Builder and Build It Workshops and other fun unit activities. Our Shop Stewards are available to help plan your event. Pick a project from our [Project Idea List](#) or propose your own. Visit our webpage for information about reserving the shop. 2022 Unit reservations have already begun!



[Upcoming Events and Shop Calendar](#)



View our [Activity Slideshows](#)



Click here to see [Youth Shop Use Measures](#)

It Was a Busy Fall in Michael's Woodshop!



Michael's Woodshop hosted 30 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! We also debuted our CNC machine during the Family Camping Weekends. It was very well received by visiting youth and we are looking forward to incorporating this capability into more of our shop activities in the spring.



This fall, Michael's Woodshop hosted 16 **Baloo the Builder Workshop Sessions** with 85 Bears completing this adventure. See our [Baloo the Builder Activity Description](#) to learn more about this popular workshop.



We began offering our **Webelos Build It Workshop** this fall and it was an immediate success with 11 workshops held and 58 Webelos completing this Elective. See our [Webelos Build It Description](#) to learn more.



We hosted our first **Summit Award Project** this fall! With plenty of tools and workspace, Michael's Woodshop is a great venue for Eagle Projects and Summit Award Projects. Contact us to reserve the shop for your project!

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

B-P Wants and Needs 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

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

