



Volume 25
Patriot District

The Patriot Press

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National Capital Area Council



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Boy Scouts of America

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From the District Chairman

Patriot District Award of Merit. On June 28th, Patriot District held a joint Committee/Commissioner meeting and Awards Ceremony at VFW Post 8469 in Fairfax Station. Patriot District honored Thomas Tyra and Zohra Sharief by awarding them the Award of Merit, the highest award a district can present. Tom was recognized for his leadership as Advancement Chairman during the pandemic, and Zohra was recognized for her work at Cub Scout Day Camp, including serving as Day Camp Director in 2021 and 2022. As they received their awards, Tom was escorted by his wife Joanne, and Zohra was escorted by her husband, Mahmood Qadri.

The role of the District Committee is to support units as they conduct the Scouting programs for participating youth. During the pandemic, it was exceedingly difficult for units to continue with the usual Scouting program, but they did so with hard work and creativity. Over 40 Scouts, including our first female Scouts, completed requirements for the rank of Eagle, supported by Tom Tyra and the Advancement team. They made sure the Scouts received their Eagle Boards of Review, that all requirements were met, and that required paperwork was submitted to Council so that the Scouts could receive their Eagle Award. Prior to the pandemic, Zohra served on the Cub Scout Day Camp Staff four times, where she ran the archery range. She also completed the National Day Camp course that certified her to become a Day Camp Director. Once it was safe, after the pandemic subsided, she planned, organized, and conducted two highly successful Day Camps in 2021 and 2022 for Patriot District's Cub Scouts. Congratulations to Thomas Tyra and Zohra Sharief for their Scouting achievements.

Patriot District Cub Scout Adventure Day and Cub-O-Ree. The Cub Scout Adventure Day/Cub-O-Ree will be held on Saturday, September 17th, at Camp Snyder. It will feature many events Cub Scouts enjoy, including BB rifle marksmanship, archery, sling shot, climbing wall, gaga ball, STEM activities, and arts and crafts. The event is open to all Cub Scouts, family members, and potential recruits. Cub Packs are encouraged to use this event as a recruiting event and invite prospective youth who may have an interest in joining Cub Scouts. Youth do not need to be registered Scouts to attend this event. Additionally, we will show a *Movie Under the Stars* at sunset.

Packs or families that would like to camp over Saturday night will be able to do so. Camp sites include access to bath houses that have separate facilities for adult males and females and separate youth facilities for boys and girls. Camp sites also include a pavilion with picnic tables and a fire pit. Packs, Dens, or families that are camping need to bring their own tents, sleeping bags, cooking equipment and food. There is a Walmart and several fast-food restaurants less than five miles away in the town of Haymarket.

Registration will open on Black Plug on the NCAC web site on August 15th. Families, Dens, or Packs can register on that site. The cost for youth ages five to eleven who are attending Adventure Day is twenty dollars (\$20) or twenty-eight dollars (\$28) if they are camping overnight. The cost for anyone over 11 years of age who is camping overnight, to include staff, is sixteen dollars (\$16). For children under five years of age, there is no charge for camping. Camp Snyder is located at 6100 Antioch Road, Haymarket, Virginia 20169. The point of contact for Cub Scout Adventure Day/Cub-O-Ree is Bill Dexter, who can be contacted by email at wdexterjr@gmail.com or by telephone at (703) 978-2632 (home) or (703) 344-6317 (cell).

Bill Dexter
Patriot District Committee Chair



From the District Commissioner

Summertime, and the Livin' Is . . . Busy

By the time you're reading this, our Scouts will be back from their summer camp adventures and beginning to get ready for the upcoming school year. Most have also vacationed with their families, taken summer courses, or worked. Many are starting sports practices, marching band camps, and other "school year" activities that creep into the last weeks of summer break. And hopefully they're looking forward to another year of fun and adventure in Scouting! One way to keep our Scouts focused and excited about the Scouting program is for you, their leaders, to communicate with them now about all the fun things to look forward to in their Crew, Troop, Pack, or Den during the upcoming year. Reach out to your Scouts and parents to build excitement *now!*

We'll be kicking off our 2022-23 monthly **Roundtable** leader training and fellowship sessions on **August 11 at 7:30 pm at the Fairfax Elks Lodge**. We'll again try to [simulcast the proceedings on Zoom](#) for those who can't make it in person. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Roundtable, either in-person or virtually!

It's Recruiting Season! Our August Roundtable will include a discussion of fall recruiting, especially for Cub Packs. All Packs should immediately touch base with the schools, churches, etc. where they recruit at to get updated schedule and logistics information. School events are starting earlier than ever, and units will need to get information out to prospective Scouting families sooner and through different communications channels. At Roundtable we'll be talking about effective recruiting techniques. And we'll also be previewing our second annual **Patriot District Cub-o-Ree at Camp Snyder on September 17th**. Have your Cubs attend the Cub-o-Ree for a day of fun and *have them bring a friend who's not in Scouting*. That way the Cub-o-Ree instantly becomes a low-effort – but very effective – recruiting event when your Cubs and their families show their friends how much fun Scouting can be.

Lest any Troops think fall recruiting isn't relevant to them, there are many prospective Scouts who moved to the area over the summer and want to join a Troop, and there are other youth who are looking for new challenges and extracurricular activities like Scouting. You and your Scouts should be reaching out to these audiences right now. And keep in mind that supporting recruiting at feeder Packs is critical to having a good pool of prospective Scouts for your Troop in a few years. Without strong Packs, Troops won't be able to remain strong for very long. Offer Den Chiefs to area Packs. Ask how your Troop can help with Pack recruiting events and other activities. The payoff from a little help will greatly exceed the effort, and it gives your Scouts both leadership opportunities and a chance to know they're making a real difference.

As leaders we all sometimes need to "recharge our Scouting batteries" and renew our enthusiasm for the program. Starting the new Scouting year strong is a tremendous way to give yourself a boost as a Scout leader, and to remind yourself why what we do as Scouters is so important!

Ken Gaul

Patriot District Commissioner

patriot-commissioner@ncacbsa.org



Patriot District Events

Web Calendar: www.ncacbsa.org/patriot

August 2022

- 9 Commissioner Meeting
- 11 Roundtable
- 14 OA Chapter Meeting
- 14 BALOO the Builder Workshop (Cubs), Camp Snyder
- 23 PD Committee Meeting
- 26-28 Powderhorn! (Camp St. Charles, MD)



September 2022

- 8 Roundtable
- 11 Woodwork Merit Badge, Classroom Session (Camp Snyder)
- 9-11 Wood Badge, Camp Snyder (Weekend 1)
- 11 OA Chapter Meeting
- 13 Commissioner Meeting
- 16-18 OA Lodge Fellowship (Camp Olmstead)
- 17 Adventure Day / Cub-o-Ree (Camp Snyder)
- 17 Woodwork Merit Badge, Shop Session (Camp Snyder)
- 24 BCOLS Classroom Session (Heritage Presbyterian Church)
- 27 Joint PD Committee/Commissioner Corps Meeting and Awards Ceremony (6:30 PM at VFW Post 8469 in Fairfax Station)

October 2022

- 2 Woodwork Merit Badge, Classroom Session (Camp Snyder)
- 8-9 Wood Badge, Camp Snyder (Weekend 2)
- 9 OA Chapter Meeting
- 11 Commissioner Meeting
- 14-16 Fall Camporee (Camp Snyder)
- 22-23 BCOLS Outdoor session (Camp Big Mac)
- 25 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, August 11, 2022

Location: [Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge](#), 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax

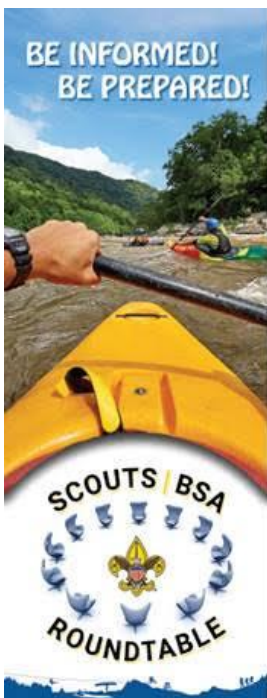
Social: 7:30 PM Midway: 7:45 PM Roundtable: 8:00 – 9:00 PM

Topics: Strong Start, Recruiting, Training

Word of the month: Loyal

Bring a treat to enjoy while we meet!

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



Patriot District Scouts BSA Roundtable

Not just for Scoutmasters

Thursday, August 11, 2022

Location: [Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge](#), 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax

Social: 7:30 PM

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

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

Topics: August for Success, Recruiting Troop Summer Experiences – Meetings and Campouts

Joe Margraf, Scouts BSA Roundtable Commissioner

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

Asst. Scouts BSA RT Commissioner: Rick Priest



Scouter Interview: John Merchant

Patrick Ring

John Merchant currently serves as the Patriot District Vice Chair for Program, and as acting OA Adviser. He has spent over 40 years as a volunteer BSA Scouter, where he has served as an Assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster, Order of the Arrow (OA) Chapter Adviser, District Camping Chair, and Red Cross Instructor under the BSA Authorized Provider agreement. He has also served as a member of the staff on numerous District camporees and on Patriot Day Camp Staff for over five years, and he is a longtime supporter of programs at Camp Snyder and Goshen Scout Reservation. His focus is split between the Order of the Arrow and Patriot District.



John has received numerous awards for his volunteer service, including the St. George's medal (Episcopal Adult Scouting award), Scoutmaster knot, training knot, District Award of Merit, Silver Beaver, the Vigil honor in the OA, the OA's Founder's Award, the OA Centurion Award, Lenhok'sin Legend award, and the Elgin Deering Goshen Visionary Award for his many years of support to the Goshen programs

Patrick Ring (PR): How and when did you first become involved in Scouting, and then later come to serve the Patriot District as Vice Chair, Program?

John Merchant (JM): I was a Cub Scout in the late 1950s and earned the Arrow of Light Award. Work on the family farm prevented me from pursuing continuing Scout activities, but my friends and I did a lot of camping in our orchards, dragging a heavy canvas tent with long wooden poles. While in the Air Force in the 1970s, I was a competitive skier, and was asked to help with a skiing merit badge for a troop on the base. In just over a year, I was an Assistant Scoutmaster helping to lead High Adventure trips. Later on, in the early 1980s, the troop chartered by my church was struggling a bit and I stepped in to help. I stayed with that troop, and later its crew, for over 25 years. I then turned that job over to the next generation of adult leaders and began getting active with the newly created Patriot District.

PR: Please give us an overview of your activities and goals in your position as the Program Chair

JM: The VC Program oversees several District committees, including, Camping, Health and Safety, STEM, Day Camp, Training, Religious committees (Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, others), Pinewood Derby, and others. I was Camping Chair for a several years, and as Camping Chair, I was also *de facto* a member of the Council Camping Committee. Also, as Health and Safety Chair, I am a member of the Council Risk Management Committee. I see my primary responsibility as VC Program is to keep units informed of program opportunities and resources locally, at the Council level, and nationally. I try to be selective because even through COVID, the opportunities can be a bit overwhelming.

This is likely my last year as VC Program so I am actively working to help identify others who might be interested in taking on this role of coordination and promotion. I intend to remain active with many of the programs to help them to continue to be great.

PR: Have you experienced any surprises during your tenure as Program Chair?

JM: COVID, of course, threw many challenges at all of us – but particularly in the program areas. The depth of creativity among the Council, District leaders, and unit leaders to try to make programs work virtually was amazing. The on-line merit badge camp was a huge success, as were the Family Camping activities, both at Camp Snyder and Goshen. I volunteered to help at both and, except for the bears causing Goshen to cancel two of its weekends, they all went off well. Patriot District also conducted three “drive-by” food drives that were quite successful. The Scouts themselves also showed persistence and creativity in their COVID-safe Eagle projects. We held a virtual Ordeal, where the candidates needed to identify a personal service project, and they came up with several very creative and worthwhile projects. The virtual Ordeal was surprisingly successful.

PR: What are some challenges facing the Patriot District programs and do you have any suggestions for meeting those challenges?

JM: Our biggest challenge is recruiting the next generation of District leaders. As unit leaders step back from their roles in the unit, we would love to have them volunteer at the District level to help with several things such as Unit Leader Training (IOLS, BALOO, SM Fundamentals, etc.). Some of the committees have one or two significant events a year (Pinewood Derby, Spring and Fall Camporees) while others are more support (Health and safety, STEM). I would encourage leaders who want to step back from their units to check out the District activities.

PR: What benefits have you received from your experience as the Vice Chair of Programs?

JM: The primary benefit is simply the many people – both adults and young people – who have enriched my life through their friendship and wisdom.

PR: What tips and advice might you offer for volunteers willing to assist with program activities, or perhaps to serve as the Vice Chair?

JM: It can be a lot of work on occasion, but if you manage your time properly, delegate, and trust others, you will reap the benefits of the experience and have fun.

PR: What are some of your most memorable experiences as a Scouter?

JM: One of the most memorable experiences was at Camp Bowman several years ago. After two days of heat and humidity, a strong thunderstorm came through and blew down tents and tarps. Behind that was a crystal-clear air mass. That evening we took some tarps and blankets and laid down on “Campfire Hill” and watched the stars; the Milky Way was clear and the stars were incredible. Years later those Scouts, now adults with kids of their own, still talk about that night.

PR: Is there anything else you would like to share with fellow Patriot District Scouters?

JM: A number of exceptional young people have crossed my path over the last many years, and they have inspired me to continue doing what I do. There is little more rewarding than working with a group of young people to help them do something big and become successful.

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



Cub Scout Day Camp – A Great Success!!

Another successful Cub Scout Day Camp organized by the Patriot and Old Dominion District unfolded the Superhero adventure during the week of July 11-15 at Occoquan Regional Park. The event was attended by 90 Cub Scouts, 40 adult den walkers (Cub Scout parents), and a camp staff of 22 adult Scouters and Scouts.

As Camp Director, I cannot express how grateful I was having a dynamic staff that focused on delivering a quality program while maintaining the safety and well-being of the campers. Thank you for working tirelessly to provide an incredible day camp experience that Cub Scouts will never forget!

While the climbing wall, archery, slingshot, nature, STEM activities, and arts & crafts stations kept the Cub Scouts captivated during the week, there was nothing more amazing than seeing their excitement when our hometown superheroes visited from the Fairfax County Fire and Police Departments. Magical superhero visits from *Spiderman*, *Batman*, and *Iron Man* were also much appreciated! The week concluded with stomp rockets and a closing program presented by campers and staff members who amused the participants with den skits and songs. *Da Moose* song was the Cubs’ favorite.

We had excellent Council support for day camp, including phenomenal on-site support from District Executives Bobby Walker from Patriot District and Dawn Greenwood from Old Dominion.

I appreciate the devoted and enthusiastic adult and youth staff members, and all the dedicated den walkers, for making the Cub Scouts Day Camp 2022 a great success! Thank you for being an important part of the Day Camp!

Hats off to staff members that rocked our Cub Scout Day Camp! Thank you all!

Adult Staff

Youth Staff

Ken Gaul	Program Director	Mathew McCollum	Arts & Crafts – T688
Bill Dexter	Administrator	Andrew Gandy	Nature – T1346
Jae Engelbrecht	Administrator	Kyle Duncan	Climbing Wall – T996
John Gandy	Health Officer	Linus Brannam	Slingshots – T1346
Gary Black III	Photographer	Aiden Haely	T1131
Joe Margraf	<i>Superhero</i>	Roland Saunders	T996
John Merchant	Climbing Wall	Everett Thornton	T1131
John Cavan	Climbing Wall	Grant Thornton	T1131
Adair Petty	Archery	Jonas Ahrens	T996
Charles Nelson	Archery		
Patrick Ring	Slingshot		
Paul Hoffman	STEM Activities		
Kelly O’Malley	Leave No Trace		

Zohra Sharief
Day Camp Director



Patriot District Program News

2023 National Jamboree – The Largest Scouting Event in the Country

We're now less than a year away from the National Jamboree, which will return to the Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve on July 19-28, 2023. The National Capital Area Council is planning to send 14 contingent units to Jamboree. The NCAC cost for Jamboree is \$1725 per person and includes the Jamboree, transportation to and from Summit, a backpack, patches, and more! Camperships are available for youth participants.

Sign up today for the 2023 Jamboree. Learn more at, ncacbsa.org/jamb

Stay up to date on details:



Stay Up to Date on Social Media:

Many people stay updated about what's going on in the world via social media. You can do the same with the [National Jamboree](#). Find updates on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Click the links below to find the exact pages for the Jamboree:

- [National Jamboree 2023 Facebook](#)
- [National Jamboree 2023 Twitter](#)
- [National Jamboree 2023 Instagram](#)



Scholarship Help is Available

If your Scout wants to attend the big event, but you're hesitant on the price tag, the BSA offers scholarships that could cover any requested amount up to the full national fee of \$1,285. To be considered, you will need to submit an online application and be approved by the Council to attend by July 31 (for first-round applicants) or December 31 (for second-round applicants). [Check here](#) for full eligibility requirements and steps on the application process.

Patriot/Old Dominion Day Camp: A Great Success

The week of July 11-15 we hosted more than 100 Cub Scouts and their leaders every day. They engaged their brains and imagination in arts and crafts, nature, and STEM activities, and engaged their muscles and aim in slingshots, archery, and on the climbing wall. We only had to end a few minutes early on one day to avoid the storms. It was warm, but we all stayed hydrated and enjoyed the summer days.

We were visited by Superheroes almost every day: Spider Man and Batman showed up for Opening Ceremony on Monday and Tuesday; the Fairfax County Fire Department was there on Wednesday, and the Scouts got to see their trucks up close. On Thursday, the Fairfax County Police visited the camp and spent time with the Scouts in small groups. The week ended with an assembly where the Cubs and staff put on skits that reflected the fun they had during the week. The staff received nearly universal praise for a fun, engaging, and safe week. Many thanks out to our adult and youth volunteer staff, including the den walkers.



Goshen Labor Day Family Camp

The Council is again hosting a Family Camp during Labor Day weekend at Goshen Scout Reservation’s Camp Olmsted. Plans are not completely confirmed, but normally rifle, archery, swimming, a climbing event, and some handicraft event are usually offered. In addition, there are miles of hiking trails to explore. For more information and registration, visit <https://www.gotogoshen.org/events/family-camp>.



Mark Your Calendars: Details Will Be Provided in Future Issues of the Patriot Press

- Aug. 11 – Patriot District Roundtable
- Aug. 14 – OA Chapter Picnic
- Aug. 23 – PD Committee Meeting
- Sept. 8 – Roundtable
- Sept. 17 Patriot Cub-O-Ree
- Sept. 16–18 OA Fall Fellowship, Goshen
- Sept. 30–Oct 2 – OA Virginia Central Fall Ordeal
- Oct. 14–16 – Patriot Fall Camporee (Camping Palooza)

*John Merchant
Vice Chair, Program*



Advancement News

I hope that your summer is going your way. Summer is usually a time when there is a surge in advancement opportunities with school out, camps open, and more free time than usual.

Here are some of the resources available on the Scouting.org website:

- Patriot district Life-to-Eagle on-line seminar in the October – November timeframe. In Advancement Resources: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/resources/>
- Program Updates: <https://www.scouting.org/topics/program-updates/program-updates-scouts-bsa/>
- Advancement Educational Presentations: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/resources/advancement-presentations/>

Look for a Patriot District Life-to-Eagle on-line seminar in the October-November timeframe. In the meantime, there is a new Eagle Scout Rank Advancement form to account for the new Citizenship in Society Merit Badge.

Enjoy the last few weeks and I’ll see you in the fall.

*Tom Tyra
Advancement Chair*



Attention Packs: Join Scouting Nights (JSN)

I will be asking Committee Chairs over the next couple of weeks about their unit's plan for recruiting new Cub Scouts, which usually entails holding a Join Scouting Night. Please send me the name, email address, and phone number of your unit's JSN coordinator soon. Also, Please have the JSN coordinator join the Patriot JSN Basecamp project using the following link: <https://3.basecamp.com/3958009/join/7fmK3DwFHxUi>. That Basecamp project will be the main source of JSN information, guidance and communication.



There will be a JSN table at the August roundtable with many Join Cub Scouts yard signs (with framing) for the taking to display outdoors. If no one from your unit attends the Roundtable in person, I can deliver the signs to your next Pack meeting or anywhere else. Just let me know how many you need and where to deliver.

Please let me know if you need assistance with your recruiting. Joining me in this effort are Mr. Gordon Goetz of Pack 1967 and, of course, our District Executive Mr. Bobby Walker.

Let's show NCAC again that the Patriot District stands out among the other districts regarding membership!

Patrick Ring
Patriot District JSN Coordinator
pring978@gmail.com



Training Reminders

- Powderhorn (Camp St. Charles, MD): August 26-28
Registration at: <https://scoutingevent.com/082-49585>
- IOLS/BALOO event (Camp Snyder): November 4-6
- BCOLS: September 24 and November 22-23
- Akela's Trail: Late November

Justin Day
Training Chair
patriottrainingbsa@gmail.com

Back Country Outdoor Leader Skills (BCOLS)

Is your unit is planning a high-adventure experience? Are you looking for a place to learn or refresh the skills needed to provide the adult leadership necessary to a successful trek? Do you want to understand how to work with older youth and how interpersonal skills, small group dynamics and team building techniques help manage risk and affect the overall quality of the trek? Do you want to help your youth master trek planning, gear selection, gear requirements; packing, land navigation and terrain awareness, health and hygiene, menu planning, food preparation and clean-up, and field maintenance all within the context of Leave No Trace?

If you answered in the affirmative to any of these questions, then Back Country Outdoor Leader Skills (BCOLS) is the course for you! Through a well-balanced mix of explanation, demonstration, and guided hands-on practice, BCOLS will enable you to become a servant-leader to your youth and prepare them for a memorable and challenging outdoor experience.

The purpose of the course is to provide adults with an understanding of the skills necessary to implement a basic backcountry program. While this course uses backpacking as the training vehicle, the skills are applicable to treks focused on specialized skills such as rock climbing, caving, white water, mountain biking or winter camping. The training is conducted in two parts: one indoor classroom session followed by a weekend outdoor, overnight session.

Prerequisites: (1) Must be a registered adult member of the Boy Scouts of America over age 21. (2) Must have completed Youth Protection, Hazardous Weather, Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills, as well as the appropriate position-specific training prior to attending this course. (3) Must present a current BSA Annual Health & Medical Record (Parts A & B). This course is NOT recommended for Cub Scout Leaders.

Recognition: Upon successful completion of the BCOLS course participants are awarded a certificate of completion and the BCOLS monkey's fist device, which is worn hanging from the left pocket of the uniform.

Course Size: The course will consist of not more than 32 participants. Preference will be given to leaders actively involved in the BSA older youth programs. Once the course is filled, would-be participants will be given the option of being placed on a waiting list in case of cancellations.

Next BCOLS Offering:

- Classroom Session: Saturday September 24, 2022 at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA 22308
- Weekend Session: Saturday October 22 thru Sunday October 23, 2022 at Camp Big Mac, 12647 Moss Hollow Road, Markham, VA 22643
- **Participants must attend both sessions to get credit for the course.**

Registration: <https://scoutingevent.com/082-59004>

For more information: Dominick Caridi
dscscouting@aol.com or 703-625-4196





YMHA Training is Coming Back!

ANNOUNCING TWO NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO BE TRAINED

If a Scout in your unit were to die by 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 pandemic. 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 **Virtual** session will be on Saturday, August 27, from 10 AM – 3:30 PM with a break for lunch. It will be taught by a member of the Fairfax County Community Service Board (CSB) team.

The first **in-person** class in over two years, will be held at Camp Snyder on Saturday, October 15, from 10 AM – 4 PM. This will be coincident with the Fall Camporee. A lot of leaders will be there, but not all are needed to walk with the Scouts from one event/activity to the next. This is an ideal time to get trained. The class limit for both of these sessions is 20; please sign up quickly. The next session will likely be offered in December.

- Register with Mark Greer at mfgreer@verizon.net and include your mailing address and a good phone number.
- **The cost is \$0 for all courses this Fall, as the CSB has received some grant funding. However, we are asking (not requiring) all attendees to donate to a local Fairfax County based youth mental health charity an amount equal to the usual cost - \$25. More info on this as you register.**
- 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 YMHA certificate of completion and an NCAC-sanctioned patch demonstrating the achievement
- ***Don't miss out! Don't Wait!*** We can only serve 20 students in each class - register now for this essential training. To register, please email Mark Greer at mfgreer@verizon.net. Mark can also answer any questions you may have.



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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John Merchant	Vice Chair, Program	merchantj@verizon.net
Vacant	Vice Chair, Membership	
Patrick Boyd	Vice Chair, Development	boydpsusa@gmail.com
Rich Harrington	Vice Chair, Communications	rich@thinktap.com
Justin Day	Training Chair	kappasighacksaw@yahoo.com
Tom Tyra	Advancement Chair	thomas.tyra@gmail.com
Bill Snowden	Editor, Patriot Press	bsnowden419@gmail.com



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

