



Volume 26
Patriot District

The Patriot Press

November 2023
National Capital Area Council



Issue 10
Boy Scouts of America

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From the District Chair

The **Patriot District Fall AVIATION Camporee** was held in Bridgewater, Virginia, where over 250 Scouts and Leaders gathered over the last weekend of October. The Camporee was dedicated to the world of AVIATION. The District collaborated with NEXTGEN Aviators for an amazing experience that hit the mark for fun while learning the science of flight, technology in aviation, and aerospace engineering. Scouts had hands-on experiences with aircraft maintenance and flight simulators, and they went up in an *actual* plane. With the help of the amazing NEXTGEN instructors and our own District Pilots/MB counselors, ALL Scouts completed the requirements for the Aviation Merit Badge.



Our group was so big we had to break it up and take two photos of the participants.

Scouting for Food: Thanks to all our units that worked on getting the stickers put out in the many neighborhoods and then picking up all that contributed food for the less fortunate, A BIG THANKS to Gordon Goetz, our District SFF Coordinator, who put his effort together over the last several months.

GOALS – All of us should have a least one or two of them that we want achieve. One of my recent goals was to bike in a Century Ride – 100 miles in one day. Earlier this month, I completed the Seagull Century in Salisbury, MD. During COVID, I needed to get outside so I took up biking. I challenged myself each week to go a little further on my bike. At one point one of my biking friends said, you should do a century ride. I really didn't think I would complete it, especially after mile 75 when the downpour began, but with a lot of work and dedication I was able to finish.



Many of you don't realize how you can do anything if you prepare and put your mind to it in the world of Scouting. For our Cub Scouts and Cub Leaders, going on your first campout can be daunting and somewhat scary, but once you do it your sense of achievement is off the charts. For our Scouts/BSA Scouts and Leaders preparing for and completing your first BSA High Adventure Camp can be a life-changing event – something you will never forget.

I hope all of you set goals whether it is to achieve the next Cub rank or becoming an Eagle Scout – you can do anything by preparing and putting your mind to it. Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Always have fun and let's keep it safe out there.

Joe Margraf, District Chair





From the District Commissioner

Happy November! It's the season for Scouting for Food, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving, and the start of cooler weather activities.

Rechartering

We should be finishing our annual [rechartering](#) cycle, but as of this writing, several units in our District have not even logged into Internet Rechartering. Please do not wait any longer. As long as you have a good internal current roster for your unit, the online portion can usually be completed in less than 30 minutes. You don't even have to wait until all the money is collected or an Annual Charter Agreement is signed. Any questions, ask your Unit Commissioner, Lee Cass, or me.

Recharging the Batteries

All of us have things that help us “recharge our batteries,” rebuild enthusiasm, and encourage us to put up with the little (and big) annoyances in life. Sometimes being a District Commissioner can feel a bit like you're constantly stomping out brushfires... barefoot. But our wildly successful aviation fall camporee with NextGen Aviation was one of those Scouting “recharge the batteries” moments for me. I won't go into much detail about the event because it's covered elsewhere in this issue. But I do want to thank Bill Dexter, Joe Margraf, and the rest of our camporee volunteers for putting together an event that I'm sure our Scouts will remember forever. Seeing all the enthusiasm and learning by our Scouts during the weekend as they experienced new and exciting activities was a fantastic reminder that what we're doing really DOES make a difference for our nation's next generation. Please remember to “recharge the batteries” in whatever way works for you, in and out of Scouting!



Two Old Guys Celebrate the End of a Fantastic Camporee

As I reflect on our blessings during this Thanksgiving season, one of them is definitely how many young lives we are positively impacting through Scouting. Thank you to all our dedicated leaders and parents for everything you do!

Ken Gaul
Patriot District Commissioner
patriot-commissioner@ncacbsa.org



Patriot District Events

Web Calendar: www.ncacbsa.org/patriot

November 2023

- 4 SFF Food Collection
- 9 Roundtable
- 9 OA Chapter Meeting
- 11 Veterans Day
- 14 Commissioner Meeting
- 17-19 Fall Family Camp at Camp Snyder
- 18 SM and ASM Position-Specific Training: Pohick Regional Library, Burke; Registration: <https://soutingevent.com/082-76352>
- 23 Thanksgiving
- 28 PD Committee Meeting



December 2023

- 12 Joint Commissioner/PD Committee Meeting
- 14 Roundtable
- 14 OA Chapter Meeting
- 25 Christmas
- 31 New Year's Eve – Celebrate!

January 2024

- 1 New Year's Day 2024
- 6 NCAC OA Banquet
- 9 Commissioner Meeting
- 11 Roundtable
- 11 OA Chapter Meeting
- 15 Martin Luther King Day
- 23 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, November 9, 2023

Location: St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke

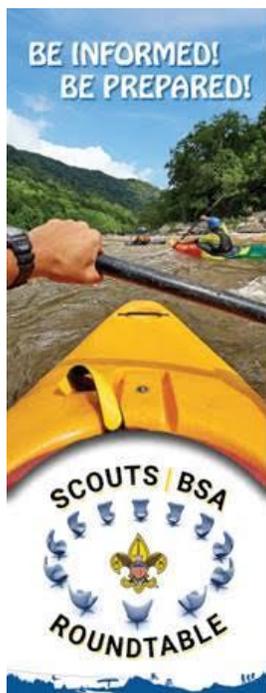
Social: 7:30 PM Midway: 7:45 PM Roundtable: 8:00 – 9:00 PM

Topics: Service Projects, Pinewood Derby Prep, Religious Awards

Word of the Month: Helpful

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, November 9, 2023

Location: St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, Burke

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: Cyber Chip and Cyber Bullying
Journey to Excellence**

Greg Wagner, Scouts BSA Roundtable Commissioner
wagner89usna@verizon.net

Asst. Scouts BSA RT Commissioners: Vacant



Scouter Interview: Neal Erickson

Patrick Ring

Neal Erickson is currently Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 1346; he previously served as Cubmaster of Pack 698. Neal is also a Nova Counselor and Supernova Mentor, and he has helped Cub Scouts earn 39 Nova Awards and four Supernova awards. During his five years of Scouting, he's earned the Cubmaster's Key, Scouter's Training Award, completed BALOO, and IOLS training, and was recognized as the Patriot Districts Cubmaster of the Year for 2021-2022. He is currently working on his Woodbadge ticket. His day job is working for the Army as an Operations Research Systems Analyst (ORSA) in the Pentagon, but that will end in June 2024 when he retires from the Army and moves on to new opportunities as a civilian.



Patrick Ring (PR): How and when did you first become involved in Scouting?

Neal Erickson (NE): I did not join Scouting as a child, so my first exposure came when my boys joined Cub Scouts, one as an Arrow of Light and the other as a Wolf. About two months later the Pack's adult leaders recognized I liked to help and asked if I wanted to be the new Assistant Cubmaster. I said sure without having any idea what that meant. I'd coached soccer, baseball, and wrestling (my sport) and knew I liked working with kids and wanted the ability to provide a quality program to my kids. I very quickly realized how great Scouting is in developing kids into better human beings and the bonus is my boys loved it! The rest is history as our whole family is involved now.

PR: Please give us an overview of your duties as an Assistant Scoutmaster.

NE: I provide oversight and mentorship to our Scout Quartermaster and Assistant Quartermaster as they oversee the care, maintenance, and accountability of our Troop gear while also fulfilling any supply requests. Based on guidance from the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and Patrol Leader's Council (PLC), I also plan and coordinate several campouts throughout the year and serve as the Troop lead for summer camp. In the end, I try to be helpful and support the Scouts in the execution of their Scouting program.

PR: What benefits have you received from your Scouter experience?

NE: First and foremost is the opportunity to spend time with both of my sons while also having the chance to stand back and observe them while they've grown into active and engaged Scouts. Working with Scouts has also fulfilled my desire to support the community and specifically help youth be a part of a great program that will hopefully guide them in the future.

PR: What advice would you have for your successor?

NE: Always remember that it's all about the kids. Take advantage of the plethora of learning opportunities that Scouts BSA, the National Capital Area Council, and the Patriot District provide to make us better Scouters. Get trained for your position right after you register so that you understand your role in supporting your unit. Then look for other training opportunities that align with how you want to support the Scouts. Wear your knots, patches, beads, etc. with pride, but remember they are there to let Scouts know your Scouter background so that they understand the resource you are to the unit. Finally, get Youth

Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training to expand the number of people in our community who can identify kids who are struggling and point them toward help.

PR: Do you have a suggestion for how the District Committee can further their efforts to invigorate the Scout program?

NE: The Patriot District is lucky to include one of the most diverse communities in the country. We need to focus our recruiting on increasing unit diversity so that our Scouts understand how our differences can bring us together. Some of my favorite Scouting events were our potluck Blue & Gold Banquets that included food from all over the world or cultural presentations from our Cub Scouts. That being said, the costs of Scouting are rising rapidly and that will create a barrier to bringing in new Scouts. We have scholarships available at all levels, but District fundraising will greatly increase the number of scholarships available to units.

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

NE: Going to my first summer camp as the Scout leader allowed me to spend more time with the Scouts and get to know them better. I had the chance to see them experience all the highs of that adventure, but also engage with them when they were struggling (for a variety of reasons). It made me a better Scouter because they are more willing to engage with me, and I have a better idea of what motivates them or can notice when they are having a down day. I also got to engage with some great Scouters in the summer camp staff and work with my fellow Troop Scouters.

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

NE: Get creative! Think outside of the box. I credit our shared experience of overcoming the challenging COVID-19 pandemic as when I started to truly become a Scouter dedicated to helping Cub Scouts. Every unit has comfort zones of what and when to do their normal activities. Find ways to change things up such as researching new campout ideas for your Troop that you can present to the PLC when they are planning their campout schedule. I participate in our regular Roundtables and look online for new and exciting ideas.

*Patrick Ring is a member of the Patriot District Committee
and Vice Chair for Membership*



“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

~ Sir Winston Churchill (b. November 30, 1874)

***“If you want to be successful, it's just this simple. Know what you are doing.
Love what you are doing. And believe in what you are doing.”***

~ Will Rogers (b. November 4, 1879)

Patriot District Fall 2023 AVIATION Camporee

Patriot District held its Fall Camporee over the weekend of October 27-29 in Bridgewater, Virginia, located in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley. The camporee theme was Aviation, which involved Patriot District teaming with the Dynamic Aviation Group's NEXTGEN Aviators Program for an unforgettable weekend experience that provided participating Scouts with exciting opportunities to learn about key aspects of manned flight, aviation technology, and aerospace engineering, as well as for completing the Aviation merit badge.

The camporee, which was blessed with wonderful bright and sunny fall weather, was attended by 248 Scouts and Scouters, including 173 Scouts, 65 adult Scouters, and 10 camporee staff members. The program was held in Dynamic Aviation's airport facilities in Bridgewater, as well as in the skies above. Camping for all participants was on the adjacent farm. The camporee site was in a beautiful meadow surrounded by forests, and the trees were at peak colors.

The overall program had two parts. The first part was presented by NEXTGEN Aviators, the education arm of Dynamic Aviation. Highlights of the NEXTGEN program included Scouts training in a pilot simulator and taking a flight in a small corporate jet over the airfield, the camporee site, and the surrounding area, including the small city of Bridgewater. During a tour of the aviation museum the company owns, the Scouts got to tour the first U.S. government plane designated as Air Force One, which Dynamic Aviation is restoring. The plane was used by President Eisenhower during the 1950s.



The second part of the overall camporee program focused on Aviation merit badge instruction by the Patriot District Merit Badge Team. The team consisted of five instructors with vast aviation experience and education. They included an Air Force Academy graduate, a Viet Nam War combat pilot, a Navy Aviator helicopter pilot with experience landing on Navy ships at sea, and several pilots for major commercial airlines. Mark Greer served as the Aviation Merit Badge team chief, leading a team of instructors that included Melissa Ashby, James Day, Phil Sternberg, Daniel Voght, and MJ Uribe. Together they taught 40% of the merit badge requirements. All attending Scouts were successful in completing all requirements for the merit badge,

As for all camporees, the event featured a Friday evening Scoutmaster/Senior Patrol Leader meeting and cracker barrel. Saturday morning began with a formal opening ceremony. Program activities continued throughout the rest of the day. The Saturday evening campfire included hilarious skits presented by four Troops, with two other troops leading everyone in song. A formal closing ceremony was held on Sunday morning, with Mr. Mike Stolfus, the owner, and CEO of Dynamic Aviation, addressing the Scouts. He thanked them for participating in the NEXTGEN Aviators program and stressed the importance of everyone finding and pursuing a career in an area for which they had a passion. He also discussed various internship and job opportunities at Dynamic Aviation, including for both high school and college students.

As always, the great success of this camporee could not have been achieved without the efforts of a competent and committed camporee staff. In particular, Joe Margraf is to be commended for his invaluable contributions in planning and organizing the event. Joe worked with Dynamic Aviation and NCAC for a full year to pull things together, while overcoming significant administrative challenges, that ensured that this special event could be held. John Merchant, Pat Ring and John Cavan ran the camporee headquarters, which included putting on the Friday evening cracker barrel. Ken Gaul and Jack Oliva served as the camporee commissioners. Alexander Vogt, a Scouts BSA crew member and George Mason University freshman, was the Camporee Senior Patrol Leader.

*Bill Dexter
Camporee Director*



Fall Camporee in Pictures



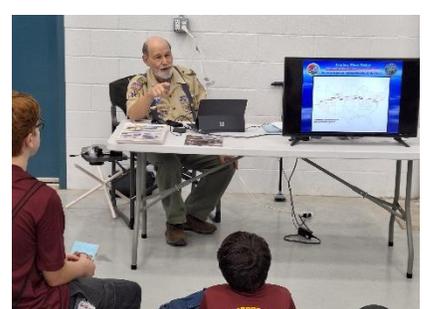
Inside the Cavernous Dynamic Aviation Group's Facility

The Patriot Press

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Scouting for Food 2023 – But It’s Not Over Yet!

With autumn leaves bursting into spectacular color on a brilliant sunny temperate day, Scouts of the Patriot District put their Scout Law into action as they conducted a very successful SFF drive on October 28th and November 4th. They exemplified the tenets of being **HELPFUL** – volunteering to help others without expecting a reward, and **THRIFTY** – working to pay their own way, trying not to be wasteful, using time, food, supplies, and natural resources wisely. To complete the effort, on Saturday, November 4th, they scoured their neighborhoods to collect bags filled with canned goods and food stuffs and delivered them to the District’s central Scouting for Food collection site at the Burke Safeway.

Supplemented by donuts and coffee, Scouts and Scouters delivered and unloaded SFF donations throughout the morning and early afternoon. Periods of quiet were gladly interrupted by periods of simultaneous deliveries, causing excitement as all attempted to quickly unload and separate the various contributions. Scouts from the Order of the Arrow took it upon themselves to smartly block off six parking spaces to accommodate delivery vehicles and expedite unloading safely. Ultimately, Patriot Scouting units filled one large panel truck with donated food!

Food prices and housing costs have shot up. A sobering conclusion of a new report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that hunger in the U.S. rose sharply in 2022. Hunger exists in every zip code in Fairfax County. While this year’s SFF planning had its share of bumps and bruises, the ultimate goal was and continues to be achieved by our scouting units...*to feed the hungry and to give drink to the thirsty*. At the time of this article, the total weight of food donations is pending; it will be reported when received from our SFF partner the Capital Area Food Bank.

Don’t forget to report your unit’s Scouting for Food Data as well as Community Service Hours at the NCAC SFF website at <https://www.ncacbsa.org/scouting-for-food-unit-data/> Please do your best in estimating weight totals. Estimate 6-8 lbs. for a full shopping bag, one 16 ounce can equals one pound.

SFF is not over yet! Some District units have adjusted their food collection dates to better accommodate their schedules and partnerships with local food pantries and their chartering organizations. Please remember that the **Patriot District’s Virtual SFF Campaign** (to supplement our primary door-to-door collection) is ongoing until **December 16**. Go to <https://yougivegoods.com/patriotdistrict-scoutingforfood2023> or see the flyer below. **KEEP GOING!**



The Scene at the Safeway SFF Collection Site

Gordon Goetz
Patriot District SFF Coordinator





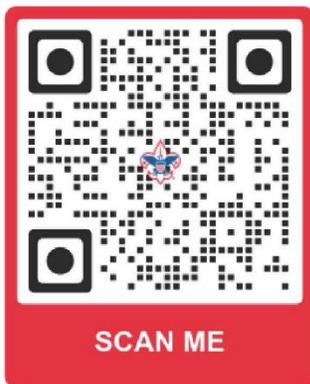
National Capital Area Council

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

Virtual Food Drive

October 1 - December 16

Join the Patriot District Scouts to help our neighbors who are food insecure – Donate healthy food items today!



It's easy to help!

- ✓ Scan the QR code to visit our online giving event
- ✓ Click on SHOP to purchase the most needed items - please enter the Pack/Troop number you are supporting at checkout
- ✓ You will be emailed a tax receipt at check out
- ✓ All items will be shipped directly to the selected charities

Thank you for making an immediate impact today!

Sponsored by:



Special Eagle Scout Project: Restoring Costa Rica's Forests

As a Life Scout in Patriot District's Troop 1131, Aiden Healy decided early on that he wanted his Eagle Scout project to be about conservation. Climate change is perhaps a major issue of our time, and trees play a remarkably important role in the process. Trees absorb greenhouse gases, help manage important water sources, and provide a healthy habitat for thousands of animals. And what better place to plant trees than in Costa Rica and the province of Heredia, one of the most biodiverse countries on the planet. The province also happens to be where Aiden's maternal family lives.

Aiden decided that his Eagle Scout project would be to lead an international team of volunteers to plant indigenous trees on reclaimed land in Costa Rica. The project would stretch his leadership skills – and Spanish – to the limit. In November 2022, Aiden confirmed through WhatsApp that the forest guardian organization FUPROVIRENA would provide enough supplies for planting many young tropical saplings. His first call to FUPROVIRENA to start the planning process would be one of many. Soon thereafter he confirmed that Costa Rican Troop 92 would provide over 20 Scouts to help.

Once on the ground in Costa Rica in July 2023, pinning down the details became easier. Aiden met three times with FUPROVIRENA's founder, Raphael Varela, twice to train on tree planting and once for lunch with his family at Mr. Varela's house. With help from his Spanish-speaking parents, Aiden quickly learned more about FUPROVIRENA's mission: the organization not only protects over 100 square miles of forest, but it also works with landowners to reclaim land, principally from old coffee plantations. For Aiden's project, the landowners would provide the saplings and planting equipment, but FUPROVIRENA was expected to provide enough volunteers to do the actual planting, which initially presented a significant challenge.

That is where Costa Rican Troop 92's participation proved essential. Although Costa Rican Scouts are not officially part of the U.S. Boy Scout network, they share many of the same principles and practices. Scout Troop 92 has a particular interest in conservation, and it had previously completed several activities around Heredia focused on helping the environment. The troop's involvement with FUPROVIRENA seemed a natural fit.

It proved perhaps to be too good a fit. When Aiden met for lunch with Gabriel Valerio, one of the leaders of the troop, he learned that the number of volunteers had grown to around thirty. The challenge now was to figure out how to transport all the Scouts to the remote work site together and on time. Starting early in the morning was essential – Heredia is tropically hot by mid-day and the rains come early on July afternoons. Weighing his options, Aiden decided to modify his plan and rent a van to personally meet and travel with the volunteers to the work site.

On the project day, Aiden opened with a few words describing his journey to Eagle Scout, covered the day's plan in detail, and introduced Mr. Varela. He then separated the group into two teams, a planting team, and a hole-digging team, and together with Mr. Varela staged several planting demonstrations. The teams then spread out around the area and, despite the steep terrain, planted more than 150 trees, over twice the expected total. Compared with the extensive preparations and adjustments needed in the run-up to the event, the actual project day, while exhausting, went according to plan.

Aiden's bond with Troop 92 strengthened later when they inducted him into the troop at an overnight ceremony in Heredia. The relationship between Aiden, the Costa Rican Scouts, and FUPROVIRENA continues to evolve. Aiden's efforts helped solve a major manpower problem for the

non-profit organization and introduced a new generation of Scouts to tree planting on reclaimed land. In late September, two months after Aiden's Eagle Scout project ended, over 70 Scouts from Heredia participated in a FURPOVIRENA tree planting project. Plans now include expanding the network to include more Scout troops country-wide, and Aiden's Scouts BSA Troop 1131 is considering a trip to Costa Rica and activities with Troop 92 soon.

Looking to the future, Aiden plans to stay involved with FUPROVIRENA and the organization's critical conservation efforts in Costa Rica. Aiden's growing interest in renewable energy led him to contact the Rainforest Connection, a Texas-based international conservation group, regarding helping FUPROVIRENA cover the growing areas of land the organization patrols. The Rainforest Connection offers a solar-powered forest monitoring unit that can alert forest guardians to the unique sounds of chainsaws, dramatically expanding their zone of coverage. Bringing these two organizations together, perhaps with help from both U.S. and Costa Rican Scouts, could leave an enduring legacy of protecting Costa Rica's vast but vulnerable rainforest.



Aiden and Mr. Varela on Site



Tree Planting in Costa Rica



Digging Holes for Planting New Trees is Hard Work



Aiden and Troop 92 Scouts



Aiden and Troop 92 Leaders



Aiden's Induction into Troop 92





Membership Corner



If you have not already done so, you can request to join the Patriot Membership project on Basecamp by emailing me at pring978@gmail.com. This is another way to gain access to the following and more:

- (1) Playbooks for the Cub Scouts, Scout, BSA, and Venturing and Sea Scouts programs
- (2) Guides for Each Cub Scout Rank
- (3) Social Media Guides
- (4) Member Application Forms,
- (5) Share communications regarding membership with your peers

Membership Report as of 10/31/2023

Number of Scouts

	October 2023	October 2022	Percent Change
Patriot District	1,976	2,037	-3.0%
NCAC wide	31,707	32,431	-2.2%

Fairfax Fall Festival

On Saturday, October 14, Scouters from Patriot, George Mason and Chain Bridge Districts ran a Scout booth sponsored by NCAC at the Fairfax Fall Festival. Turnout was decent despite the continuous rainfall. The fishing hole was a big hit with the many young kids. Thanks to Patriot Scouters Gordon Goetz, Joe Margraf, and Patrick Ring and Senior District Executive Bobby Walker for making this happen.



NCAC Booth before Opening



Cubmaster Matt Leatherman, George Mason District, and Ann MacPhail, Vice Chair Membership, Chain Bridge District, running the fishing hole.

Patrick Ring
Vice Chair, Membership
pring978@gmail.com
(703) 674-6178



Patriot District Program News

The following items are repeated from the October issue because they remain currently relevant...

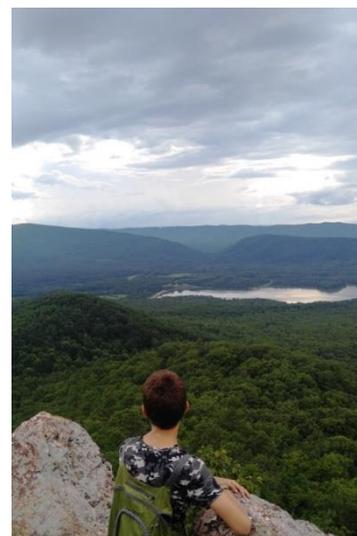
Goshen Registration for 2024 is Now Open

Registration for the five Camps at Goshen Reservation is now open at gotogoshen.org → Registration

The five camps include:

- Camp Olmsted – Scouts BSA Dining Hall
- Camp Bowman – Scouts BSA Patrol Cooking
- Camp Marriot – Scouts BSA Heater Stack or Patrol Cooking
- Camp Ross – Webelos Dinning Hall
- Lenhok'Sin High Adventure – Six days of Backpacking or Canoeing for Scouts at least 13 years old.

Register early to get your preferred dates and camps. NOTE: one week of Camp Ross is already full!



Camp Snyder Registration for 2024 is Now Open

Camp Snyder has multiple Cub Scout options and Scouts BSA options. Many details can be found at gotosnyder.org.

Cub Scout Day Camp: Come experience all the fun that Camp has to offer five days a week. This camp experience runs from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM each day and includes all your summer camp favorites. Lunch is included in the day and cost of camp for Scouts and their adult chaperone.

Cub Scout Weekend Overnight Camp: Sleep in a tent, eat in the dining hall, enjoy lots of great activities, and experience a great campfire program. The fun is non-stop from morning until night. Sessions run from Thursday at 6:30 PM to Sunday at 9:00 AM and feature three nights of overnight camping. Meals are provided from Friday breakfast through Sunday continental breakfast.



Scouts BSA Merit Badge Camp (Two Weeks in 2024!): There are two attendance options: (1) stay at Camp Snyder from Sunday – Saturday, complete your merit badges, and enjoy a series of fun evening activities, or (2) choose to attend from 9-5 Monday-Friday as a day-only participant for the merit badges class and rank advancement sessions.

NCAC Camp's OPI: Wilderness First Aid Fall 2023

Presented by the NCAC Camps, the Outdoor Preparedness Initiative (OPI) offers Wilderness First Aid certification with CPR/AED. OPI aims to prepare Scouts 14 years of age and older, Scouters, and outdoor enthusiasts for high adventure activities and other outdoor adventures. Certification is provided through the American Red Cross.



Course Dates for the fall are: November 18/19, and December 16/17. This two-day course will offer day-only instruction on Saturday from 7:30 AM – 8:00 PM and on Sunday from 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM. There will not be an overnight stay involved. Participants should bring their own lunch and snacks.

The course has an online component that must be completed before the first class date. This link will be emailed out when course registration is closed one week prior to the class. The online coursework will require 3-5 hours of online learning. The registration link is at: <https://scoutingevent.com/082-74480>

All High Adventure Crews require at least one adult be certified in Wilderness First Aid. Plan to register soon as classes fill up quickly.

Scouterhorn Operations Training Fall 2023

Scouterhorn is the NCAC Council’s mobile climbing tower. It is used for program weekends at Camp Snyder and can be rented for District events either on-site at camp Snyder or off-site at your event location within the NCAC geographic area. Whenever used, it must be operated under the supervision of a certified “Climb Master.” The training includes review of on-line documents and hands-on training. The Hands-on” training is offered at camp Snyder during the Family Camp weekends. The next Fall date is November 18. Two sessions are offered, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon.



Registration: https://scoutingevent.com/082-couterhorn_Operations_Training_2023



“History must share with reading, writing and arithmetic first rank as the most important subjects in the curriculum. Understanding the issues on which citizens of a republic are expected to vote is impossible without an understanding of the past.”

~ Walter Cronkite (b. November 4, 1916)

Advancement News

We currently have opportunities for more District Eagle Representatives. It is a great way for former Scoutmasters to help our prospective Eagles. If you can offer your mentorship, please drop me a note.

We will have a Life to Eagle Session for the District on December 9th. LTE is a great way to see the process and ask questions. A big thanks to Mike Toner and Jim Westlake for leading. The Blackpug site is live.

Thank you to Colonial District for sponsoring training for the Citizenship in Society merit badge counselor on Saturday, November 18, from 8 to 11 AM at the Franconia Family Moose Lodge. The training is free of charge. This training allows a prospective Citizenship in Society Merit Badge Counselor to complete one of the requirements for qualifying to be a CIS MBC.

CIS MBC applicants can sign up for the training at: https://scoutingevent.com/082-mbc_cis

We also have an NCAC-wide Eagle Scout information page at <https://www.ncacbsa.org/eagle-scout-information/> Be sure to check out the Procedures guide.

Fairfax County Parks Authority welcomes Scout projects. Note that they have some guidelines on what they can accept. Their page is at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/scouts/scout-service-projects>

From various helpful sources:

“What can you do as the person responsible for advancement on your unit committee? A good place to start is by remembering that the important thing is to retain Scouts in the unit so that over time we may influence their character. A program that is rich in adventure is the key element. Advancement is a natural outgrowth of this rich adventure.

Next, you should make sure that you are familiar with the latest advancement requirements and the Guide to Advancement so that you will become the “go-to” source in the unit on all matters related to advancement. Be sure that you understand the advancement procedures, especially those for Eagle Scouts. Keep current on the merit badge counselor list, and work to recruit local merit badge counselors to support the unit’s program.

You can work with youth leaders to make sure the unit has a library of current advancement literature, including an ample supply of up-to-date merit badge pamphlets. Work with the unit leaders to ensure that the program promotes a Scout’s reaching First Class within 12 to 18 months of joining.

You can help by keeping accurate records. (Let me double down on that) You then will be able to regularly brief the unit leaders on the advancement needs of each Scout. Schedule regular boards of review, at least monthly, but more often, if required. Be sure to include boards of review during summer camp. Should a Scout appear to be having boards less often than their contemporaries, you will be able to alert others to their situation and help in considering what steps to take. “

Thank you for all you do for our Scouting program!

*Tom Tyra
Advancement Chair
Thomas.Tyra@gmail.com*



Patriot Training Corner

We haven't made much progress improving our percentage of trained leaders. Perhaps many of our Scouters don't know what the requirements to be considered trained are.

What does it take to be considered trained?



- All registered adults (including Merit Badge Counselors) – YPT every two years.
- All direct contact registered adults (not committee members and CORs) – Hazardous Weather Training (SCO_800) every two years. This was a new requirement added a couple of years ago; you do not get the reminder to recertify like YPT.
- Committee Chairs/Members – Online or in-person Position Specific Training (Pack/Troop Committee Chair or Member Training)
- Charter Organization Representatives – Online or in-person Position Specific Training (Charter Organization Representative)

Cub Scout Cubmasters – Online or in-person Position Specific Training



- Den Leaders – Online or in-person Position Specific Training
- Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO) – Highly recommended for all uniformed leaders even if you are an Eagle scout or expert camper.

Scouts BSA

- Scoutmaster/Asst Scout Master – Online or in-person Position Specific Training AND Intro to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS)
- Merit Badge Counselors – Online or in-person MB Counselor Orientation



Some upcoming adult training opportunities:

- November 18: (Patriot District) Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster
- November 18-19: Wilderness First Aid

If you have any questions or need help getting trained, please contact Rick Chandler @ chandler.rick@gmail.com.

Rick Chandler
Training Chair
chandler.rick@gmail.com





Camps & Programs
at Goshen Scout Reservation

Bowman, Marriott, Olmsted
Scouts BSA/Venturing Camps

Lenhok'sin High Adventure
Backpacking & Canoeing Treks

Ross
Webelos Camp

Dates

- Week 1: June 23 - June 29, 2024
- Week 2: June 30 - July 6, 2024
- Week 3: July 7 - July 13, 2024
- Week 4: July 14 - July 20, 2024
- Week 5: July 21 - July 27, 2024
- Week 6 (Ross only): July 28 - August 3, 2024

Fees

Fees and discounts for the upcoming year will be announced this fall.

Mark Your Calendars!

Registration opens to the general public on September 6, 2023.

Early Booking Discount! Units attending Goshen in 2023 will be able reserve their spot for 2024 while at camp and get a discount on their first scout.

www.gotogoshen.org



Save the Dates Snyder Summer 2024

Cub Scout Camp

Rising Tigers to rising Webelos & AOLs.

Day Camp

Session 1: June 24 - June 28, 2024

Session 2: July 8 - July 12, 2024

Resident Weekends

Session 1: June 20 - June 23, 2024

Session 2: June 27 - June 30, 2024

Session 3: July 11 - July 14, 2024

Scouts BSA Camp

Specialty Weeks

Session 1: July 15 - July 19, 2024

Session 2: July 22 - July 26, 2024

Family Camp

All ages!

July 5 - 7, 2024

Registration opens in October 2023.

www.gotosnyder.org

JOIN CAMP STAFF!



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

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

JOB REQUIREMENTS

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

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

ABOUT THE JOB

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

Room and board are provided. Staff live on site and go into town for their weekly day off.



 Goshen Scout Reservation
www.gotogoshen.org/staff

Summer 2024

Staff Training Week begins June 15, 2024
and Tear Down ends August 6, 2024.

Interviews start in January 2024.

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 Joe Margraf: joedenisemargraf@aol.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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Vacant	Vice Chair, Program	
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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

