



The Patriot Press



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From the District Chairman

The purpose of my article this month is to continue the discussion of Patriot District and the path forward for the Patriot District Committee. The Patriot District Committee is one of the strongest in NCAC. It is robust and dynamic, and it provides our District's 55 units superb programming, outstanding support, and strong leadership.

A District Committee is an organic organization with personnel constantly changing. The commitment to the Patriot District staff for a volunteer is one year or one event. Every year committee members are given several choices: depart the committee, change their position, or remain in their previous position. Two recent examples of this are John Stewart and Daniel Brunk. John has been the Vice Chair for Membership for several years, but he recently decided he would like to serve as a Unit commissioner so he will transfer to the Commissioner Corps in January. Dan joined the committee in September to head the three-months-long project Scouting for Food 2021. His commitment will end in December, at which time he can decide if he would like to continue as a member of our committee or move on. Both individuals serve in important positions and provide a vital service to District units.

The mission of the Nominating Committee is to retain and recruit Scouters to serve on the committee. The Nominating Committee members are Justin Day, PatriotTrainingBSA@gmail.com or at (540) 308-1626; Joe Margraf, joedenisemargraf@aol.com or at (703) 314-1622; and our District Executive, Bobby Walker, bobby.walker@scouting.org or at (434) 429-4112. Please contact them if you would like to join the committee. Remember you are only volunteering for one year starting in January 2022, or for a specific project/activity for a limited time.

On our Program Committee we are looking for volunteers to fill the Training Chair, Cubmaster Position Specific Training, Health and Safety Chair, High Adventure Committee, and Scouts BSA/Cub Scout Camp promotion. On the Membership Committee, we need a Vice Chair for Membership, a Scouts BSA Open House Chair, a Webelos-to-Scout Transition Director, and a Join Scouting Night Coordinator. Additionally, the Membership Committee has two new positions that need leadership: a Cub Scout Relaunch Coordinator and a Female Unit Liaison.

The Finance Committee has a new Vice Chair, Patrick Boyd. He just moved to Virginia from Hawaii and is taking hold of the position. He needs several new volunteers to fill out the team, including a Friends of Scouting Coordinator, a Community Campaign/Special Events Director, and a Popcorn Kernal. Mark Blanchard currently serves as Assistant Popcorn Kernal. Our Communications Vice Chair is Richard Harrington, who also serves as the NCAC Vice President for Communication. He needs a few volunteers to help him with social media, and he is ready to train anyone who is interested in helping in this area.

To continue to provide the leadership needed to maintain Patriot District's position of Excellence, the committee must grow and reinvent itself over the next 15 months. Patriot District is a strong District, and the Committee must be expanded to help ensure that we can continue to function a wide range of Scouting activities at a high level. We strongly encourage and invite you to join our team, serve our youth, and have fun.

Bill Dexter
Patriot District Committee Chair





From the District Commissioner

Scouting is back! Patriot District Packs, Troops, Crews, and STEM Labs are in the swing of the Scouting year, with appropriate pandemic safety precautions, of course. I'm getting lots of reports of active, fun unit activities, especially outdoor events during the spectacular fall weather we've been having recently. I want to give a huge thank-you to all our leaders for persevering over the last 20 months to give our young people all that Scouting has to offer. You're what makes it happen!

In coming months, it will hopefully become less of a challenge to give our Scouts the quality Scouting program they deserve. As I write this column the number of new cases of COVID-19 is dropping in our area, and there is encouraging news on the vaccine front for our Cubs and younger Scouts BSA and STEM Lab members. Safety always comes first, but the easier it is to keep our Scouts safe, the easier it will be to offer them a fun and rewarding program.

Fall Recruiting is going well, and I continue to be impressed by the number of new Cubs joining our Packs. Our Troops, which traditionally get most new members starting in February, have also seen a noticeable uptick in registrations this fall as they gain new and transfer Scouts, as well as Scouts who dropped out last year but now want to rejoin. As of the end of September, Patriot District membership had climbed back to 92% of the number of Scouts we had at the end of 2019, before the pandemic. We expect that total to approach and possibly exceed 100% by the end of the calendar year. Meanwhile, Facebook GeoFencing ads are still available to advertise your unit in its recruiting area, and you can still get yard signs and flyers. Contact District Membership Vice Chair John Stewart or District Executive Bobby Walker for more information. Let's do everything we can to offer the benefits of Scouting to *every* young person in our District!

October is also rechartering season. Hopefully every unit's recharter coordinator was able to attend recharter training at last month's Roundtable. The new software should make the process far less painful than in past years. If your unit has completed its 2021-2022 membership inventory and has registered all new members before online rechartering opens on October 15, you should be able to complete online rechartering in under an hour. The process is also largely paperless for the first time – the only remaining paper is the annual recharter agreement, which can be signed and turned in separately from the online process. And even after hitting "submit," you can continue to add new members to your unit through the end of the year and they will automatically be added to your recharter status. This is a great development – there's now no longer any reason to wait to complete rechartering because a unit is still expecting more new registrations. Get rechartering done early and quickly so everyone can go back to the important job of making your program the very best it can be!

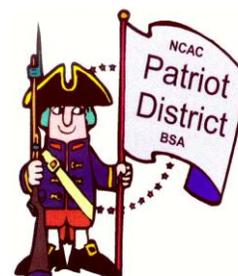
If you have any questions or issues about rechartering (or anything else for that matter), feel free to reach out to your Unit Commissioner, ADC, Deputy District Commissioner Lee Cass, or myself. After the crush of rechartering is over, we'll want to work with your unit leadership to complete the 2021 Journey to Excellence scorecard, which is an excellent way to confirm your unit is offering a great program, and to identify any areas for future improvement.

Ken Gaul
Patriot District Commissioner



Patriot District Events

Web Calendar: www.ncacbsa.org/patriot



October 2021

- 1-2 BALOO Training (Camp Snyder)
- 1-3 VA Central Ordeal Induction of New OA Members
- 10 OA Chapter Meeting
- 12 Commissioner Meeting (*Remote*)
- 14 Roundtable (*Remote*)
- 15-17 Fall Camporee (Camp Snyder)
- 22-24 V3 Hike-o-Ree (Front Royal)
- 23 Cub Scout Expo (Camp Snyder)
- 23-24 BCOLS Camping Weekend
- 26 PD Committee Meeting
- 30 Life-to-Eagle Seminar (*Tentative*)

November 2021

- 6 Scouting for Food Flyer Distribution
- 6-7 IOLS (Camp Snyder)
- 9 Commissioner Meeting (*Remote*)
- 11 Roundtable (*Remote*)
- 13 Scouting for Food Pickup
- 14 OA Chapter Meeting
- 20 Akela's Trail (formerly Pow Wow) *via Zoom*
- 23 PD Committee Meeting
- 25 Thanksgiving

December 2021

- 3-4 OA Trade-a-Ree (Camp Snyder)
- 9 Roundtable
- 12 OA Chapter Meeting
- 14 Joint Commissioner / PD Committee Meeting (*Tentative*)
- 25 Christmas

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, October 14, 2021

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

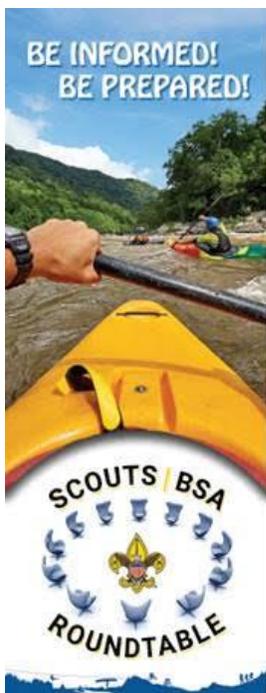
Midway: 7:30 PM (via Zoom) **Roundtable:** 8:00 – 9:00 PM (via Zoom)

Topics: JTE/Volunteer Recruiting/Web Resources/COVID Corner/Back in Person/Campfire Planning

Word of the month: Helpful

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, October 14, 2021

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

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

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

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

Topics: **Cyber Chip and Cyber Bullying**
Parent Coaching

Joe Margraf, Scouts BSA Roundtable Commissioner

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

Asst. Scouts BSA RT Commissioner: Rick Priest



Scouter Interview: Jessica Norsky

Patrick Ring

Jessica Norsky is the Scoutmaster of Troop 1347G and also a military spouse of an active-duty Space Force service member. After 12 moves and 19 years, Jessica is passionate about serving and advocating for our military, families, and whichever community is currently “home.” In addition to Scouting activities, which as we know, only take up one hour a week, Jessica is serving a three-year term on USAA’s National Advisory Panel; was selected for the inaugural class of MSAN’s Military Spouse Leadership Development Program; is honored to serve as an Arlington Lady through AFOSC and Arlington National Cemetery; and recently completed her seventh marathon.



Of all the things Jessica has accomplished and done in her life, her greatest joy and purpose is her family. Married to Peter “Charlie” Norsky for 19 years, they share three children, Peter (18), Matthew (16), and Emma (14). When she is not trying to change the world, you can find her cheering on the sidelines of various sporting events. Her all-time favorite, sharing dinner with her family around the table.

Patrick Ring (PR): How and when did you first become involved in Scouting, and then later as Scoutmaster Troop 1347G.

Jessica Norsky (JN): Scouting has been an integral part of our lives for many, many years now. My husband, Charlie, is an Eagle Scout and our sons, Peter and Matthew, are also both Eagle Scouts, starting their own Scouting journey as Tiger Cubs in 2009 and 2011, respectively. Being married to an Eagle Scout and having my sons in the program, I knew what a wonderful program it was, so when the opportunity came to serve as a Scoutmaster in Scouts BSA, I was all in! Our daughter, Emma, was excited to do what she had seen her brothers do with outdoor activities, camping, Scout skills, merit badges, leadership and service!

PR: What do you think attracted the girls in your Troop to join Scouts, BSA?

JN: Many of our Scouts have brothers and/or dads who have been Scouts themselves. They have seen, firsthand, the one-of-a-kind opportunities within the program, and they have even participated as guests. Other Scouts have been invited by their friends!

PR: What are some challenges you faced in working with others to start up Troop 1347G?

JN: We have an incredible Committee Chair, Denise Hayes, who really spearheaded the startup! The first goal we needed to meet was to make sure we had enough Scouts to start a troop – and we did! We chartered with 10 female Scouts and are excited that we have doubled in size in just under three years!

Another challenge we needed to meet was to gather the equipment needed for all the outdoor adventures we planned to have. Our Boy Troop was helpful and kind in making sure that we could borrow whatever was needed as we first started up. Our Chartering Org, Burke United Methodist Church, even donated funds to help with start up costs and other area troops donated equipment to us. It was remarkable!

Finally, we needed to make sure we had enough adult leadership! We had several Committee Members from the Boy Troop offer to be Committee Members for the Girl Troop. In addition, we had many parents, including Kevin Baird, Randy Smidt, Matt Toone, Carmel Dellinger, Peter DeWeese, and community volunteers, Jill Brannam and Matt Gardner, willing to serve as Assistant Scoutmasters, Merit Badge Counselors, and Eagle Scout Advisors! It takes a village to provide the adult support needed to support a Scout-led, outdoor program, and I am certainly fond of and thankful for ours!

PR: What is one challenge facing Troop 1347G and how can the Patriot District assist your Troop in facing that challenge?

JN: Scouting during the Covid 19 shutdown was challenging, but I appreciated how the Patriot Press always had helpful and pertinent information! In addition, I remember how much fun it was for my Scouts to submit cooking photos of the food they were making during virtual campouts. Thanks for continuing to be engaging and a source of great info!

PR: What has been your Troop's experience with recruiting?

JN: We have incredible Committee Members, Greg Spinner and Nicole Martinez, who are the adult Scouters who help connect the Troop with recruiting opportunities. Many of our new Scouts are AOLs that came to one of our Open Houses (the next one is on Tuesday, October 26 from 7–8:30 PM at the Landings Community Center in Burke...just saying). Though it is easy to get focused on the busyness of the now, for the health of our Troop, we need to always be welcoming new Scouts to our 1347 family. This means being intentional in recruiting our future Scouts!

PR: How are your Scouts performing in advancements?

JN: The exciting part of our program is that we have brand new scouts working on Scout Rank, all the way up to Life Scouts who are working towards Eagle. Even though we are a newer program, we have the full spectrum of rank, which I see as an indication of a healthy program.

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

JN: There are so many memorable experiences, but the one that stands out to me the most – and one I will hold dear for the rest of my life, is when a Scout, who was heading off to college, let me know what a difference Scouting had made in her life. That is my “why” and that is the opportunity we, Scouters, have at every meeting, at every campout, with every interaction. We are difference makers!

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

JN: I just finished Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) Training, and I would like to encourage my fellow Scouters to take it if you have not already! One in every five youth in the U.S, will experience a mental health disorder in their lifetime. Early intervention is key to preventing the symptoms from becoming more serious, while lessening the overall impact in a young person's life. Given our role as Scouters, we have the chance to notice changes in behaviors, to offer a non-judgmental listening ear, and to serve as a vital link to early intervention! Again, just one more way we have the opportunity to make a difference.

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

Patriot District Cub-o-Ree

On September 25 and 26, young boys and girls could be seen having fun at Camp Snyder. The days were beautiful and the Cub Scouts enjoyed being outside while engaging in challenging activities. Parents were with them and enjoyed the event as much as their children. It was a great family outing, the first ever Patriot District Cub-O-Ree.

The Cub-o-Ree was attended by 38 Cub Scouts and 31 parents from eight Patriot District packs: Packs 1533, 1346, 1968, 1967, 873, 673, 50, and 30. The packs with the largest participation were 1533, 1346, and 1968. The event included an “Adventure Day” program, a movie under the stars, and a family overnight campout. During the day Scouts participated in a variety of events, including the climbing wall, BB marksmanship, archery, and sling shots. Later that evening, Scouts, family members, and staff gathered outdoors on a grass field for a movie under the stars. While the audience sat in lawn chairs or on blankets or tarps, they watched the film on a huge 24 feet screen. Popcorn was served to the audience as they watched the film.

At the conclusion of the movie, some families and staff members walked to our campsite and spent the night. The site was rustic, but it included a shared pavilion, some picnic tables, and a fire circle for cooking or an evening campfire. We also had use of a permanent bath house with indoor toilets, sinks and showers. The weather was perfect for sleeping and everyone woke up refreshed and ready for a good breakfast. By 11 AM Sunday morning, the campsite was packed up and we departed for home with big smiles on our faces and great memories.

The Cub-o-Ree was supported by 15 Scouter staff members. They included Rich Harrington and his son, Michael, who presented the movie; Jack Oliva, who was the commissioner for the overnight camp area; John Merchant, who fulfilled several roles, including serving as event medical support, working the climbing wall, and serving popcorn during the movie; Lee Cass, who ran registration and greeted everyone with a warm welcome; Ken Gaul and Kelly O’Malley, who ran the BB gun range; Michael Stonkey and Zohra Sharief, who operated the archery range; Pat Ring and Sarah McKee, who ran the sling shot range, which was very popular with both Scouts and parents; Pat also popped the popcorn for the movie; John Cavan, who worked tirelessly at the climbing wall; and Gary Black, who served as the event photographer. Bill Dexter was the Cub-O-Ree Director. Bobby Walker, our Patriot District Executive, also attended this event, visiting all of the sites to observe Scouting in action.



Having Fun at the First Ever Patriot District Cub-o-Ree



Patriot District Program News

Registration is Open for Goshen 2022

Beautiful Goshen Scout Reservation includes three Scouts BSA Camps, a High Adventure Base and a Webelos Camp, all are 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 is one of the last BSA Camps to offer week-long Patrol Cooking, which is “real” camping. Patrols really grow during the week here as they share camp duties. A full selection of merit badges is offered.

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.

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

Lenhok’Sin High Adventure offers a backpacking program for Scouts BSA 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.

Weekend Family Camp at Camp Snyder

The council is again offering Family Camp Program weekends at Camp Snyder, October 22 – 24 and November 19 - 21. Programs include Climbing Wall, BB’s, Archery, STEM activities and others. For more information and registration visit <https://www.gotosnyder.org/year-round-events/cub-scout-expo/> Cubs, Scouts BSA and younger and older youth can participate on either weekend. Sign-up quickly, because these weekends with program activities are limited to 150 participants.

Mark your Calendar



High Adventure Year-Round at Northern Tier

Check out one of the four Premier National High Adventure Bases in Ely, Minnesota. Ely offers programs year-round, both for individuals and for Crews. Check it out at <https://www.ntier.org/>. There are Canoe Treks in the Boundary Waters in the summer and the iconic Okpik winter camping program. Dates for Okpik 2022 are Session 1: January 28-31, 2022; and Session 2: February 11-14, 2022.



*John Merchant
Vice Chair, Program*



OA NEWS ITEMS



Welcome to 29 New OA Members

At the Virginia Central Ordeal on October 2nd, we inducted 29 new Patriot Scouts from 10 Units to the Order of the Arrow. They were all invited, along with our current members, to an Ice Cream Social at Good Shepherd.

Preparing for Election Season and Doing Service

The next thing is to prepare for Unit visits and elections that start in January.

Early November – Instructions to Unit Leaders and Troop OA Representatives (TOARs).

Nov 14 – Chapter Meeting – Election Training

Nov 13 – OA Help with Scouting for Food Central Collection Facility at Burke Center Safeway

OA Service Project Completed at Camp Snyder

During the OA Fall Fellowship at Camp Snyder, members of the OA, including many from the Patriot District, worked together under the direction of Ryan Alford, Camp Ranger, to complete a much-needed project creating a new floor for the Fort. The Fort is one of the principal program areas at Snyder. It is used to enhance the summer camp program and for year-round activities. One year you might be walking into the wild west and the next year exploring a moon-landing base. It is an area used to get Scouts actively engaged in the overall summer program.

To replace the existing dirt floor, which was in great need of updating, the OA Scouts spread about 65 tons of gravel in an effort that involved more than 200 Scout service hours. After pulling all the weeds, 2-3 inches of gravel were spread over the entire area. The new floor will facilitate maintenance and ensure that no one has to tolerate wading in the mud as in past years. The project was a great success.



Get the Biggest Results for Your Units GeoFenced

It's not just for Cub Packs

Join Scouting Events



- (1) Get the information about your event(s) to Bobby Walker and John Stewart three weeks prior to the event. The information needed is: your Unit # and type, what the event is, where the event is occurring, when-Day and start and end times, and the why of course—to give the families young people opportunities to develop physically, mentally, ethically and experience the outdoors all while they are developing as the leaders of tomorrow. Scouting is a great program just waiting to be shared with the other youth in the neighborhoods, schools, churches, and children rising up out of pre-schools into kindergarten!
- (2) Once the GeoFence is posted on the internet (Facebook) get the word out to all unit families so they can do a couple of things: 1) they can RSVP for the event and you want everyone to do this. 2) they can share/push/like the event, and this again is something you want all unit families to do. The more folks who do the RSVP and push/like the event drives the internet algorithm for the social media website to advertise your event to neighboring families in the area with similar characteristics. The earlier your unit families start attracting attention to the event the more the event will get seen and shared with local families. Each day put a new comment/article on the event: ie Suggestions to bring something/wear something, what Scouting is about, what you'll get out of Scouting, new to Scouting Parent announcement, we can't wait, post for everyone to share the event.
- (3) During the event take pictures and get some testimonials. Have a couple of Parents share how they have seen Scouting benefit their Scouts and Families talk to the Visiting Parents,
- (4) After the event post pictures and testimonials on your unit website as well as share on the Patriot District website with our Vice Chair for Communications Rich Herrington rich@rhedpixel.com or on his cell at (703) 608-4852. These pictures, testimonials and even an article from your unit on the event could be shared with NCAC for visibility on the council website.
- (5) Yard signs with metal frames are still available in significant quantities for Cub Packs. Contact John Stewart for these signs as he has them at his house. Scouts BSA Troops if you would like yard signs please contact Bobby Walker to see if he can get any of these at this date.

Units can get GeoFencing scheduled for up to two Join Scouting events this Fall.

Take advantage of this great opportunity.

Our District Executive Bobby Walker Bobby.Walker@scouting.org can help your unit create great looking flyers for your event that even have a QR code unique to your Unit that will lead a family right to your Unit's information. At the event or after it, the family can use your Unit's information as they go to BeAScout.org to register for Scouting. You can use the following website to submit the required info to Bobby: <https://ncacbsa.org/jsnrequestform>. Again, submit your GeoFencing needs at least three weeks in advance so you can get the benefit of a whole two weeks prior listing for your event. Units are encouraged to plan on holding two Join Scouting events and to submit both events for GeoFencing. Unless you have some unique considerations most "fences" are established as a two-mile radius of the event location/or your unit's meeting location-school, church, community group...

The National Recruiting Page has a multitude of resources if you want to take a look through what they have to offer <https://www.scouting.org/recruitment/>

Our NCAC Membership One Stop Shop is located at <https://www.ncacbsa.org/membership-committee/>. Thanks for all you do for our youth in providing a super Scouting program to help them be the prepared as the ethical leaders of tomorrow.

Financial aid resources have been added to basecamp under the "Financial Aid" folder to provide assistance with registration fees if a family or families have need. We do not want a youth member to consider Scouting unaffordable. Continue to reach out to all potential new Scouting families as multiple contacts via yard signage, GeoFencing, a flyer, etc... all help to attract new membership.

Yours in Scouting,

John R. Stewart
Vice Chair for Membership
John.r.stewart.mha@gmail.com
(571) 318-0549



Patriot District Units Doing Great on Recruiting

As of September 22nd our District as a whole is within 150 new Scouts of attaining the number of members we had at end of December 2019. Let's keep recruiting efforts going to get new Scout Families to join your unit and provide the great benefits of Scouting to new youth members.

Thanks to all Scouts and Scouters out there who keep providing the super planning, leadership and safe environment for your units. Remember to share pictures and stories about your cool unit events with Rich Herrington, our District Communications Chair, rich@rhedpixel.com or on his cell at (703) 608-4852. He will post these on the District website and possibly get it posted on the NCAC website.

*John R. Stewart
Vice Chair for Membership*



From now through midnight on October 31st on the following website

https://www.scoutshop.org/shop-by-scout?utm_source=scoutingwire&utm_campaign=svvolunteer9152021&utm_medium=email&utm_content=

Uniform top and bottom must be from the same program and be purchased together.

Discount will apply to the lowest priced uniform bottom in the cart.



Advancement Notes

The air is crisper, and the leaves will soon be falling.! You may have noticed more Scouting activity as we expand out of COVID-19 and you would be right.

This year the end of September saw Patriot District with 85 new Eagles Scouts. This is a 60% increase over this time last year when we had 53 new Eagle Scouts. Congratulations to all on achieving this highest rank in Scouting!

During 2021, we have seen a 25% increase in the number of merit badges earned by our Scouts, with over 2800 earned year to date.

Next month we will look at Cub Scouts.

I want to thank everyone for what they do to make the program possible.

As noted in the September issue of the Patriot Pres, the new Scouts BSA Guide to Advancement is available for downloading at this website: <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>

The Guide isn't meant to be read cover to cover. Instead, it's organized and indexed so you can quickly find answers to your advancement questions. Because it's in a PDF format, our favorite way to find something fast is by searching the document (control-F on a PC, command-F on a Mac) for a key word or phrase like "merit badge" or "time extension."

For the 2021 update, a team of national-level professionals and volunteers went through every word of the Guide to make minor and major revisions. Many of the updates were included in response to frequently asked questions received by the National Advancement Program Team.

The MeritBadges@Home program is on this month. Counselors will conduct remote instruction for Scouts using Zoom and collaborate through the Basecamp platform over the period October 11-30. Here is a link: <https://scoutingevent.com/082-51763>

Keep an eye out for a new Life to Eagle seminar soon.

*Tom Tyra
Advancement Chair*



"Unless a man is master of his soul, all other kinds of mastery amount to little."

~ Theodore Roosevelt (b. October 27, 1858)

Patriot District Training Updates

Happy October fellow Scouters. I am happy to say that we had a very successful BALOO course on October 1-2, and we now have lots of newly empowered Cub Scout leaders ready to plan and lead fun and engaging campouts for their Scouts and families. Up next for Patriot District is the Scouts BSA leaders and IOLS on November 6 - 7. The registration information is below:

IOLS – Saturday November 6 to Sunday November 7

Cost: \$30

Location: Camp Snyder

Registration: <https://scoutingevent.com/082-PATRIOTFALL21IOLS>

Password: Patriot25

Also coming up in November is Akela's Trail, the 2021 iteration of Pow Wow but with a new name for the event! Akela's Trail will be a half day of focused Cub Scout training via zoom. Registration is not currently open, but it should be opening by the middle of October. In the meantime, save the date/time: **Saturday, November 20, 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM.**

If you have thought about attending Wood Badge, registration is now open for the Spring 2022 course, which will be held the weekends of April 29 – May 1 and May 14 – 15.

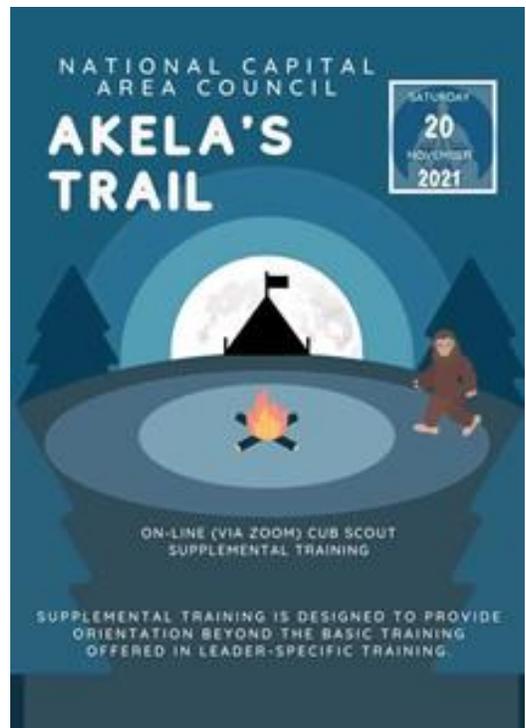
Registration: <https://scoutingevent.com/082-49317>

Finally, don't forget that you can attend training put on by any district, so if one of our trainings doesn't work for your schedule, be sure to check out the council's calendar to see what is available.

Here is the link: <https://www.ncacbsa.org/calendar/>

Yours in Scouting,

Justin Day
Training Chair
patriottrainingbsa@gmail.com



“Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence.”

~ John Adams (b. October 30, 1735)



YMHFA Training: October 30 Session

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 on Saturday, October 30, virtual, and 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, so please sign up quickly. The next session will likely be held sometime in January 2022.

- 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 website 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 – 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.

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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

