

TOP CLOUDS: 2.1.21 edition

An online edition of this Apache District Newsletter can also be found @ <http://www.mccscouting.org/smoke-signals>

Apache Roundtable for Thursday, February 11, 2021—On schedule.

Zoom meeting for Scout leaders, 7:00 p.m.

Still challenged with balancing “Screen Time” with “Scout Time”?

Are your parents losing the battle with their teens who would rather group chat or game vs. attend Scout activities?

Are your Scouts still on their smart phones at meetings and outings?

Does “Minecraft” dominate discussion during your den meetings?

You are not alone. Join us on 2/11 to learn more about arming yourself with greater truth and knowledge for combatting the second most serious pandemic of our time.

Www.Screenstrong.com resident speaker and Marketing Director Mande Hamann will be speak to our Scout leaders on screen issues and how to help you and your Scout parents be better equipped to win the “screen time” war.

Please plan to join in the discussion.

Brady Drummond-Ryan, bradydryan@gmail.com

Apache Roundtable Commissioner

<https://www.mccscouting.org/apache-roundtables>

On Schedule - Eagle Project Proposal Reviews, Thursday, February 11, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

In-person reviews of Eagle Project Proposals will be available.

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 6828 Old Reid Road, Charlotte, NC 28210

Scouts should follow instructions for scheduling posted at

<https://www.mccscouting.org/eagle-scouts>, then Project Review Information, or

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/176532_a901c5127e164caebbb165cb131bb7c7.pdf

Scouts have an option for virtual reviews, explained below.

2021 Camp Card Sale

The 2021 Camp Card Sale launched on January 30. Camp Cards, sales envelopes, tracking sheets are available at the Scout Shop.

Please contact Brian Sweeney, Hornets Nest District Director and 2021 Camp Card Adviser, for details.

Key Dates

March 12 Redistribution day; 50/50 day. Each unit must turn in cards or money if the unit has not sold more than 50%. Cards will be redistributed to units that have sold ALL of their original allotment and want additional cards to sell.

April 9 SALE ENDS! Unit account settlements begin. All cards and money must be turned in! Units turn in Leaders' Tracking Form. For every 20 cards that a Scout Sells, the Scout is entered into the Grand Prize Drawing. One Scout will win.

April 16 Last day to receive 50% commission.

April 17 Commission reduces to 40%.

April 18 Units may settle their accounts at the Council Service Center on or before this date.

April 19 Grand Prize Drawing

April 23 Commission reduces to 25%.

April 30 Commission reduces to 15%.

May 7 No commission.

The Grand Prize Drawing winner will receive a youth annual pass to the US National Whitewater Center (USNWC), valued at \$189.

Scouting for Food 2021

Key Dates

Saturday, February 6, 2021, Food donation collection from neighborhoods

Sunday, February 7, 2021, Food donation collection from worshippers arriving to church services

Collection sites will stay the same as last year.

Sorting and bag counting will not happen at collection sites this year. Because of Covid 19, we are asking units to "Drop and Dash". Units will bring their bags/boxes of food to the normal collection sites/locations. Catawba Lodge members will assist with unloading food from vehicles. Bags will not be counted at drop-off. However, units are encouraged to count their own bags if this is important to them. NO SORTING will happen at the collection sites. Instead, the bags of food will be transferred by Catawba Lodge members and other volunteers directly into the large boxes that are in each Loaves & Fishes trailer. The food will be hauled to the Loaves & Fishes warehouse where it will be stored and sorted by volunteers utilizing appropriate social distancing guidelines.

Loaves & Fishes

<https://loavesandfishes.org/scouting-for-food-is-saturday-february-6/>

encourages units to sign up to help sort at their warehouse. Sorters must be at least age 10 or older and group sizes are currently limited to 10 people. This number may increase as North Carolina COVID-19 guidelines are updated. Groups should commit to a 2-hour shift. The warehouse is currently open until 6 pm on weekdays. Weekend shifts may be added if needed. This is a great way for units to give back to their community and to earn service hours. The sign-up process will be added to the Leaders Guide at

https://86e79986-1cec-421c-807e-8446c73855a8.filesusr.com/ugd/31584b_afb4bbd808a8400dae855b14f85cd64b.pdf .

Phil Adams, Apache SFF Coordinator

704 575 5209 or at hrdadams@yahoo.com

Cub Pack Support Task Force

We are starting up a new Cub Pack Support Task Force in the Apache Commissioner Corps and need YOUR help. Many of you are familiar with the unit commissioner role which partners a specific commissioner with a specific unit. We're expanding on that model to create a team of experts to assist Cub Packs across the district that have a targeted need.

We are seeking two levels of support for this. First are seasoned leaders who can commit to monthly meetings designed to review packs who are in need of this targeted help and formulate plans to assist. Second, a network of leaders within the district who are subject matter experts on specific areas such as recruitment, programming, camping, or fundraising. These folks would be available as "on-call" support when needs are identified in their areas of expertise.

If you can help out with this, or if you know someone who can, please contact Chris McLean at chris.m.1995@live.com and Jason Bennett at jrb287@hotmail.com.

Recruiting Ideas for Your Unit

Recruiting is tough right now with no access to traditional CMS schools, many charter organizations with closed buildings, and families justifiably skeptical of in-person meetings. The following ideas are for your Unit to leverage now (and in the future!):

[Nextdoor.com](https://www.nextdoor.com) – promote what your Scouts are doing, when and where you meet.

Facebook – if you don't have a Unit page, that's fine, many HOA's or neighborhoods have a page where you can promote what your Scouts are doing, when and where you meet.

Charter Org News – ask your Charter Org to promote what your Scouts are doing in their news or bulletins. Have them share on their Social Media channels.

Local School Principal & PTA – do you know the Principal and/ or PTA where most of your Scouts come from? Now is the time to build and foster those relationships. Cleanup around the school, take pictures and have them post on their Social Media channels. For more information or ideas, contact Apache Membership Chair Andy Waligowski at andy.waligowski@gmail.com

Bryan on Scouting Blog, January 21, 2021

“Before you meet, make sure you screen for COVID-19”

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2021/01/21/before-you-meet-make-sure-you-screen-for-covid-19/>

This article includes 2021 updates and links about COVID risk management.

Cub Scout Meetings – Where Do We Go?

If your Charter Org is closed, you can still meet outside. Now is a great time to keep the outing in Scouting. Meet at public parks – Town or County parks are open. If you can't have traditional Den Meetings, meet as a Pack and let the Scouts learn Scout skills – some may be advanced or repeats, but get them outside and have them bring a friend!!

For more information or ideas, contact Apache Membership Chair Andy Waligowski at andy.waligowski@gmail.com

Cub Scout leaders

These resources may be helpful to planning Cub programs:

<https://www.sgcbasa.org/files/29281/Lion-Leader-Parent-Guide-pdf>

<https://www.sgcbasa.org/files/29282/Tiger-Leader-Guide-pdf>

<https://www.sgcbasa.org/files/29283/Wolf-Leader-Guide-pdf>

<https://www.sgcbasa.org/files/29284/Bear-Leader-Guide-pdf>

<https://www.sgcbasa.org/files/29285/Webelos-Leader-Guide-pdf>

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2018/10/05/den-leader-guides-cub-scout-leader-book-available-in-print-and-digital-formats/>

These Cub Scout Adventures video resources can help your next den meeting:

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/08/25/these-cub-scout-adventures-video-resources-can-help-your-next-den-meeting/>

Merit Badge Information

Information on regional and national courses is posted at

<http://www.meritbadge.info/>

<http://www.meritbadge.info/mbn/default.aspx>

Current merit badge requirements:

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>

Optional merit badge workbooks: <http://usscouts.org/meritbadges.asp>

Scheduled Merit Badge Courses

NEW - Indian Lore Merit Badge

Offered as a hybrid course with 2 online, virtual merit badge sessions on February 25 and March 15, and a concluding in-person craft session on April 10 at Spring Camp. Links to an Indian Lore Merit Badge Guide, information, on-line registration, and payment are available at <https://mccscouting.doubleknot.com/event/indian-lore-merit-badge/2773640>

NEW – PARI Scout Camp on Friday-Saturday, February 19-20, 2021

Astronomy and Space Exploration Merit Badges

Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute is a non-profit astronomical observatory located in the Pisgah National Forest near Balsam Grove, NC.

<https://www.pari.edu/events/pari-scout-camp/>

NEW – Cycling Merit Badge on Sunday, February 28, 2021, 12:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Palmetto Council is offering a Cycling Merit Badge course at Fort Mill Public Library, 1818 2nd Baxter Crossing, Fort Mill, SC 29708. Scouts will visit outside activity stations to cover requirements. Scouts may complete 1 or 2 required rides by the end of the afternoon. Scouts must present evidence of completion of all rides to earn a blue card completion. More information and on-line registration and payment are available at <https://scoutingevent.com/549-cyclingmb>

NEW – Maporee on Saturday, March 6, 2021, at Belk Scout Camp

Mecklenburg County Council invites Scouts and units to participate in a day-camp Maporee to cover basic map, compass, land navigation skills, and Orienteering Merit Badge. Units are invited to camp for the weekend. Climbing and Archery Merit Badges will be offered. Links to a Maporee Guide with pre-event merit badge homework, information, on-line registration, and payment are available at <https://mccscouting.doubleknot.com/event/maporee/2774695>

Snow Sports Merit Badge

Friday-Saturday-Sunday, February 26-27-28, 2021

Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center

91 North Lakeshore Drive, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

https://www.lakejunaluska.com/specials_packages/group_packages/boy_scout_retreats/

Please Save These Dates!

NEW – Spring Camp on Friday-Saturday-Sunday, April 9-10-11, 2021, at Camp Grimes

Mecklenburg County Council invites Scouts and troops to participate in Spring Camp 2021, a summer-camp dress rehearsal focused on merit badges. The Catawba Lodge of the Order of the Arrow will sponsor Camping and Indian Lore Merit Badges. Climbing Tower will be open Climbing Merit Badge. Shooting Sports Ranges will be open to offer Shotgun Shooting, Rifle Shooting, and Archery Merit Badges. Communication, and Citizenship Merit Badges and others will be available. The Summer Camp kitchen staff will provide food for Friday night Cracker Barrel, Saturday breakfast, lunch, supper, Cracker Barrel, and Sunday breakfast. All participants will follow COVID precautions for health screening, wearing masks, spacing, hand washing, outside eating, small cohorts. Links to a Spring Camp Guide with pre-event merit badge homework, information, on-line registration, and payment will be available during the first week of February at <https://www.mccscouting.org/around-the-campfire>

Schedule Your Own Merit Badge Courses

Climbing Merit Badge

Inner Peaks

10715 Independence Pointe Pkwy., Matthews, NC 28105

<https://www.innerpeaks.com/climbing-for-kids/>

704 844 6677

Mr. Chris Dimatteo of the Inner Peaks staff is a registered Climbing Merit Badge Counselor with Mecklenburg County Council. Courses are offered for a minimum class size of 6, a maximum class size of 18, on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. with 1/2 hour lunch break or on Sundays from noon to 7:00 p.m. Courses cover all requirements except for requirement # 1 covering first aid skills, which Scouts must complete through their home troops.

Scuba Merit Badge

Lake Norman Scuba LLC
482 River Hwy, Mooresville, NC 28117
Phone: 704 660 3483
<https://www.lakenormanscuba.com/>

Mr. Andrew Katsamas is a registered Scuba Merit Badge Counselor with Mecklenburg County Council.

Pre-course requirements: Completion of Swimming Merit Badge and of CPR training
Course completion requires 6 hours of pool instruction each day for 1 weekend and 6 hours of quarry diving instruction each day for 1 weekend and a 1-hour review with the counselor.

Schedule Your Own Scouts BSA STEM Nova Award Course

Scouts BSA STEM Up and Away Nova Award for Engineering

iFly has added virtual (remote) learning opportunities for Scouts interested in earning the Up and Away Nova Award.

Scouts BSA members can complete requirements 3 and 5 of the Up and Away Award through the online course and requirement 4 with a dedicated visit to iFLY Charlotte (Concord) located at 7840 Lyles Ln NW, Concord, NC 28027, phone 704 851 4359.

Website: <https://www.iflyworld.com/charlotte/>

For information on registration, programs for individuals or groups, scheduling, and costs, please click on <https://www.iflyworld.com/programs/boy-scouts/>

For Scouts BSA STEM Nova Award Requirements, please click on

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PfTMhH0_cEBqt7PO3s9bcYCdHQX-zV9m/view?usp=sharing

For Scouts BSA STEM Nova Award Video Suggestions, please click on

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PfTMhH0_cEBqt7PO3s9bcYCdHQX-zV9m/view?usp=sharing

For information on adult registration and training as a Nova Award Counselor and a Supernova Award Mentor, please click on

<https://www.scouting.org/stem-nova-awards/volunteer-support/>

Scouting EPA Award

On August 17, 2020, the EPA and BSA issued a press release and held a signing ceremony in Washington, D.C. announcing a new Scouting EPA Award, recognized by a patch.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-boy-scouts-announce-collaboration-environmental-education-award-program-and-special>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR3Jc9hmJSczsyBsFSq5XJGglsKWIGd1BAEN19IUSyL_bpBxe7QiUE9sCA4&feature=youtu.be&v=s_6V4fRrGmo&app=desktop

Scouts must complete requirements before December 31, 2021.

Requirements are discussed at 6:40 and following on the video.

Scouts must earn 4 merit badges, including 1 merit badge from each of 3 categories:

Animal Study Category

Animal Science, Bird Study, Insect Study, Mammal Study, Reptile and Amphibian Study

Outdoor Activity Category

Backpacking, Camping, Canoeing, Climbing, Fishing, Fly-Fishing, Gardening, Hiking, Kayaking
Scuba Diving, Whitewater, Wilderness Survival

Earth Science Category

Energy, Forestry, Geology, Nature, Oceanography, Plant Science, Soil and Water Conservation
Weather

The fourth merit badge is Public Health.

Scouts must also participate in an Environmental or Public Health Community Service project for 6 hours of service.

Download the application at https://i9peu1ikn3a16vg4e45rqi17-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/512-09821_EPAAward.pdf

BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award

In early November, 2020, BSA announced a new conservation award program to replace the Hornaday Award program. Information is posted at

<https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/conservation-and-environment/conservation-awards-and-recognitions/bsa-distinguished-conservation-service-award/>

Depending on the level of award sought, Scouts must develop and execute 2 or 3 or 4 significant projects, involving research, collaboration, project planning, completion, and education. “The projects must be developed under the guidance and pre-approval of the Scout’s Unit Leader, a BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award Adviser, and the Council Conservation Committee. One of the projects may include the Scout’s Eagle Scout project (if applicable). All projects must contribute to environment improvement on a long-term scale.”

Conservation and STEM Subcommittees

The Council Advancement Committee has a subcommittee to promote conservation-related and STEM-related activities and awards. The Conservation-STEM Subcommittee invites Scouts who are interested in earning any of the BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Awards or BSA Supernova STEM Awards consult with the committee before beginning work on requirements. These awards require sustained effort over 2 to 4 years. With continuous consultation with a trained Adviser offering guidance from the outset, the Scout’s work and documents will be significantly more likely to attain a level of quality and depth to qualify for BSA National review. A Scout presenting a completed binder and application form for a signature without on-going collaboration with mentors and advisors is not likely to meet the rigorous standards in place for a successful submission and review. Please contact Stuart Tucker at stutucker@aol.com if any Scout is interested in pursuing one of these awards.

Opportunities for Service Hours and Eagle Projects

“Guidelines for Scout Community Service and Conservation Projects with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department”

Mecklenburg Park and Recreation Department has developed new “Guidelines for Scout Community Service and Conservation Projects with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department” in collaboration with Mecklenburg County Council Advancement Committee. Park and Rec welcomes Scouts and units to initiate and execute community service and conservation projects at Park and Recreation facilities, including parks, recreation centers, greenways, nature preserves, historical sites. Lists of these facilities and sites are posted at <https://www.mecknc.gov/ParkandRec/Pages/Home.aspx>

The Guidelines document is posted at

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1upktRobptxVtIUwnVHgSnYL_EszT5QzR/view?usp=sharing

ADVANCEMENT NEWS:

Eagle Project Proposal Reviews during COVID-19 (Update as of 10/23/2020)

In-person reviews continue St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church on continue on second Tuesdays at **6:00 p.m.** Please note the new time. We will not be in a position to accept walk in reviews, so please contact Apache.advancement@gmail.com to schedule the review. Upon receipt of the request for review, the Scout will receive instructions as to how to proceed at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church on the night of the review. The Scout will receive an email with a phone number for notifying the reviewers of their arrival. When a reviewer is prepared for the Scout, the Scout will receive a text letting the Scout that they may proceed into the building. Please do **NOT** enter the building until a text has been received permitting entrance. Masks will be required at all times while the Scout is in the building. The reviews will be set up in a socially distant manner to minimize the risks. If the Scout or anyone with whom the Scout has been in close contact show COVID infection symptoms, Scouts should not attend in person review. The Committee can work with any Scout to set up a virtual review. For those Scouts that do not feel comfortable meeting in person, the Scout is to follow the normal protocol of requesting a review request via email to Apache.advancement@gmail.com. Please note in the email that you are requesting a virtual review. With their email review requests, Scouts may attach their Eagle Project Proposal Workbooks and other documents, such as worksite maps, project construction plans, additional pages with details of any logistics, and safety plans, as needed. These requests will be distributed periodically to Eagle Project Reviewers. Once a reviewer has been assigned, the reviewer will contact the Scout (with a copy to another adult to maintain 2-deep leadership) to plan a virtual review.

NEW – Advancement Update: Extensions Beyond Age 18

Effective Jan. 1, 2021, local councils have the authority to grant limited extensions of time to complete Eagle, Quartermaster, or Summit requirements. These extensions are available only to youth members who qualify under the three tests listed in the 2021 edition of the Guide to Advancement (GTA), expected to be published early in 2021. These extensions are not automatic. Scouts must complete and submit an extension request form.

More information is available at

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/resources/>

Updates for Rank Advancement/Camping Requirements in COVID-19 FAQ

BSA National has added temporary changes to rank requirements.

<https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus/covid-19-faq/>

Blue Card and Advancement Report Processing

Advancement reports (with supporting blue cards and/or summer camp advancement reports) can be mailed in or dropped off at any time in the mail slot at the back door of the office (the mail slot is 1.5 inches tall).

Using Scoutbook to record unit advancement and to print an award purchase list is recommended for all units. Although many troops use Scoutbook for advancement reports, some may use the BSA Advancement form as posted at

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34403.pdf>

The advantage of using Scoutbook or the paper form is that these means assure that the advancement and awards will be registered in the BSA national database and preserved. If a parent or a Scout leader purchases a badge or an award without a Scoutbook purchase list or a paper form, the advancement or award may not be registered with BSA. If the Scout or the unit needs verification of the award, for example, for a Scout rank or an Eagle application or if the Scout transfers to a new unit, computer records may not match the advancement or award information available from the Scout.

Even with Scoutbook, blue cards are very strongly recommended to all Scouts and to all troops. Blue card records can be invaluable to confirm merit badges for Star, Life, and especially for Eagle Boards of Review.

After the Scout Shop receives advancement reports and cards, processing may take up to 7 to 10 business days. Troop leaders should include contact information so that the Scout Shop can call when reports and blue cards are ready for pickup. Pickup can occur during curbside Scout Shop hours, currently Tuesdays and Fridays from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. If leaders would like to purchase badges, they can note it with the packet delivery or can email a copy of the advancement report to Scout Shop Manager Jennifer Adkins at jennifer.adkins@scouting.org so that badges can be pulled for curbside pickup. Costs for badges can be deducted from unit Scout Shop accounts with express permission from an authorized user or can be paid for by credit card.

Signatures for advancements

All advancement reports require at least one signature. If any ranks 1st Class and above are listed on the report, 3 signatures are still required. Unit leaders can send e-signatures by email to Council Program Assistant Laura Bachelder at laura.bachelder@scouting.org

How to conduct a board of review through videoconferencing

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/03/16/how-to-conduct-a-board-of-review-through-videoconferencing/>

The Mecklenburg County Council Advancement Committee has endorsed and approved Boards of Review conducted through videoconferencing.

Digital Safety and Online Scouting Activities

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/digital-safety-and-online-scouting-activities/>

Updated Merit Badges

Scouts BSA has updated requirements for several merit badges for 2021. The full list of 137 merit badges and their current requirements are available at

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>.

As always, Scouts that have already started working on a merit badge when revised requirements and a new edition of the pamphlet are introduced, *they may continue to follow the old requirements and use the same pamphlet to earn the badge*. They need not start over again with revised requirements and the new pamphlet.

Volunteers Needed – Eagle Projects and Eagle Boards of Review

Last year 120 Scouts in the Apache District earned their Eagle Rank. In addition, a similar number of Scouts presented had their Eagle Project Proposals to members of the District Advancement Committee for their review of the projects prior to the Scout's commencement of their project. As Scouting grows in the Apache District, so does our need for Project Proposal reviewers and Eagle Board reviewers. Project Proposal reviews occur on Roundtable nights on the second Thursday of each month at St. Vincent de Paul Church beginning at 6:00 p.m. Eagle Boards of Review are usually scheduled on troop meeting nights with the respective Scoutmasters. We will provide the necessary guidance and training. For those interested, please email the Apache Advancement Chair, Dean Elledge at apache.advancement@gmail.com.

Eagle Application Packets with Complete Merit Badge Advancement Records Requested

Life Scouts and Troop Advancement Chairs: please include a printout of a Scout's advancement record from Scoutbook or from the Scout's ScoutNet profile from the Council office, including all merit badges earned, in the Eagle Application Packet that goes to Council. These records will allow the Troop and the Council to promptly process recognition of the Scout with Eagle Palms, if the Scout qualifies.

For further Advancement information, please contact your Apache District Advancement Chair or visit <https://www.mccscouting.org/advancement> or <https://www.mccscouting.org/eagle-scouts>

Eagle Board of Review Questions

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2012/09/14/20-questions-to-ask-at-your-next-eagle-board-of-review/>

Tools for Eagle Projects

Charlotte ToolBank provides inexpensive access to tools for group projects.

<https://charlotte.toolbank.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWqwzlkJWv8>

Scouts and units may also borrow tools from Belk Scout Camp for service and conservation projects.

***NEW* – Read Good News**

Scouts from Troop 47 in Middletown, NJ save 2 children from an icy pond

<https://patch.com/new-jersey/middletown-nj/watch-middletown-teens-sled-rescue-good-morning-america>

From the Pond

Fishing and Fly Fishing Merit Badge Counselor Guides

<http://bsacai.org/news/9270910>

[Fishing MB Counselor Guide](#)

[Fly Fishing MB Counselor Guide](#)

Merit Badge Counselor Registrations

If you are not a merit badge counselor or need to renew, please visit the Council's Advancement page at <https://www.mccscouting.org/advancement>. Please remember that all Merit Badge Counselors need to renew annually, usually in November.

FISH ON!!!

Outing in Scouting

Long distance trails in NC

<https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/state/north-carolina/article239278463.html?intcid=connatix>

Subscribe for free printable USGS Topo maps

<https://www.natgeomaps.com/trail-maps/pdf-quads>

***NEW* - On a cold winter evening, bring Dutch oven cooking and baking to your Scouts:**

Intro to Dutch Oven Cooking

<http://www.bsatroop540.com/camping-recipes/>

Dessert recipes

<http://www.bsatroop540.com/camping-recipes/dessert/>

Scouting at Home

Merit badges for social distancing: 58 badges Scouts can complete at home
<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/03/20/merit-badges-for-social-distancing/>

Movies that Scouts might watch to fulfill merit badge requirements
Three merit badges include requirements that can be fulfilled by watching movies:

American Heritage

American Labor

Citizenship in the Community

Below are links to lists of movies that may be applicable to requirements from each of these merit badges. Before a Scout watches any of these movies or any other movie, whether for merit badge work or for school or for entertainment, the Scout must receive permission from their parents. Before a Scout watches any movie for merit badge work, the Scout must also have permission from their merit badge counselor.

American Heritage, requirement 5a

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/American_Heritage.pdf

5. Do ONE of the following: (a) Watch two motion pictures (with the approval and permission of your counselor and parent) that are set in some period of American history. Describe to your counselor how accurate each film is with regard to the historical events depicted and also with regard to the way the characters are portrayed.

<https://www.scouter.com/topic/10805-movie-ideas-for-american-heritage/?page=2>

American Labor, requirement 5c

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/American_Labor.pdf

5. Do ONE of the following:

(c) With your counselor's and parent's approval and permission, watch a movie that addresses organized labor in the United States. Afterward, discuss the movie with your counselor and explain what you learned.

<https://www.imdb.com/list/ls031955974/>

Citizenship in the Community, requirement 5

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Citizenship_in_the_Community.pdf

5. With the approval of your counselor and a parent, watch a movie that shows how the actions of one individual or group of individuals can have a positive effect on a community. Discuss with your counselor what you learned from the movie about what it means to be a valuable and concerned member of the community.

<http://www.eaglecoach.org/merit-badges/citizenship-in-the-community-movie-list/>

<http://www.eaglecoach.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Citizenship-in-the-Community-Acceptable-Movies.pdf>

<https://scoutermom.com/1244/movies-for-citizenship-in-the-community-merit-badge/>

http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Citizenship_in_the_Community#Movies_With_a_Meaning

100 movies that every Scout should see, a list published by *Boys' Life*. (Some suggestions will require parental guidance.)

<https://boyslife.org/hobbies-projects/funstuff/18651/100-movies-for-kids/>

100 books that every Scout should read, a list published by *Boys' Life*. (Some suggestions will require parental guidance.)

<https://boyslife.org/hobbies-projects/funstuff/18215/100-books-for-kids/>

Remote Scouting

<http://www.scoutshare.org/>

APACHE DISTRICT NEWS AND EVENTS:

Apache Winter Klondike Derby Canceled

The Hornets Nest District Camping Committee has decided to postpone the Klondike Derby that was scheduled for Feb 26, 2021 due to COVID-related safety concerns. Because Apache District was planning to piggy-back onto this event, we will cancel the Apache Klondike Derby and plan to host our first event next winter.

For more information, please contact the Apache District Camping Committee at bass.jason74@yahoo.com

Attention: Lion, Tiger, Wolf, and Bear Dens

Apache Spring Cuboree at Camp Grimes

April 16-18, 2021, Friday-Saturday-Sunday

NEW - Philmont Trek for Female Scouters and Scouts

Want to have a Philmont adventure this summer? Female Scouts and Scouters can join Troop 111's 12 day trek, June 13 to 25, 2021. Please contact Towner Blackstock at townerblackstock@gmail.com, 704-491-4010.

COUNCIL NEWS AND EVENTS:

Scout Shop News

First aid kit supplies and survival kit supplies are available in the Mecklenburg County Council Scout Shop so that dens, patrols, and individual Scouts have resources for these advancement requirements:

Webelos First Responder requirement # 6. Put together a simple home first-aid kit. Explain what you included and how to use each item correctly.

Webelos Walkabout requirement # 2. Assemble a first-aid kit suitable for your hike or activity.

Tenderfoot requirement # 4d. Assemble a personal first-aid kit to carry with you on future campouts and hikes. Tell how each item in the kit would be used.

First Aid Merit Badge requirement # 5. Do the following:

- (a) Prepare a first-aid kit for your home. Display and discuss its contents with your counselor.
- (b) With an adult leader, inspect your troop's first-aid kit. Evaluate it for completeness. Report your findings to your counselor and Scout leader

Webelos-AOL Castaway Requirement # 2. Do all of the following.

A. Learn what items should be in an outdoor survival kit that you can carry in a small bag or box in a day pack. Assemble your own small survival kit, and explain to your den leader why the items you chose are important for survival.

First Aid Skill - What is a "ring string"?

A ring string is used to compress swelling from a finger where a ring is stuck and otherwise cannot be removed. Swelling might occur from arthritis, trauma, infection, burn, or medical conditions like heart or kidney diseases that cause fluid retention. A ring string could be string, a strand of paracord core, fishing line, dental floss, sewing thread, narrow ribbon, a rubber band. A ring string can be wrapped from fingertip toward the ring to force swelling under the ring. A tooth pick, a rounded end of a safety pin, a pen tip cover, or other fine blunt probe can be used to push the string beneath the ring. By gently pulling on the end of the string passing beneath the ring, the ring string unwinds off the finger and pushes the ring toward the fingertip where it is removed. If swelling is only partially improved by the first wrapping, the wrapping

and removal process can be repeated. Applying hand lotion or cooking oil or soap as lubrication to the swollen finger can allow the ring to slide off more easily.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrDROoJAF4I>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6MjZExWmvs>

Attention: Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos Dens

2021 Cub Day Camps at Belk Scout Camp

June 7 - June 11, Monday – Friday Etowah + Hornets Nest Day Camp

June 21 - June 25, Monday – Friday Apache Day Camp, Theme is “Weird Science”

Attention: Bear and Webelos Dens and WAC Youth Staff

Webelos Adventure Camp 2021 – An Adventure for Scouts Young and Old

Wanna have an adventure this summer? Sure, who doesn't!

The annual Unit Information meeting will be held Wednesday, February 24th via Zoom. Get all the info you need to take your bunch of Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts to WAC this summer at Belk Scout Camp.

Too old to join the fun as a Web or AoL Scout? You can still be a hero to a younger Scout!

Join the Webelos Adventure Camp staff. Opportunities for first choice positions are best among those who apply prior to March 19th. However, applications will continue to be accepted after that time. Additionally, any staff that applies before March 19th will get their name embroidered on their staff hat.

If you think you would be a positive addition to our camp staff, click the link to complete a Camp Staff Application: [WAC Staff Application](#).

Session 1: Thursday, July 8th through Sunday, July 11th

Session 2: Sunday, July 11th through Wednesday, July 14th

Session 3: Thursday, July 15th through Sunday, July 18th

For more information contact the WAC Camp Director, Sasha Timkovich

WACDirector@GMail.com

Attention: AOL Dens, Scouts BSA Troops, Summer Camp Staff

2021 Camp Grimes Dates and Deadlines

<https://www.mycampgrimes.org/dates.phtml?ver=5>

September 15, 2020 Staff Employment Applications Accepted

January 15, 2021 Troop Camper Deposits Due - \$20.00 per Scout

April 15 Campership Applications Due

May 1 Balance of Camp Fees Due

May 5 OA Beaver Days Registration Deadline

May 14-15-16 OA Beaver Days

June 6 - June 11 Staff Week

June 13 - June 19 Week 1

June 20 - June 26 Week 2

June 27 - July 3 Week 3

July 4 - July 10 Week 4

July 11 - July 17 Week 5

***NEW* – Exploring**

Exploring is for young men and women 10-20 years old (beginning 6th grade). Engaging with career professionals, young adults gain unique, real-life opportunities to experience varied career choices aiding in a more informed decision about future careers.

Please share this link to the 2021 Exploring Career Interest Survey with high school students and young adults of ages 13 through 20:

<http://bit.ly/ExploringSurvey2021>

Completing this 5-minute survey helps us to determine which businesses to partner with for future mentoring opportunities. Students will receive an invite from participating businesses if there is a career interest match.

BSA Annual Health and Medical Record (AHMR)

BSA has revised the AHMR set for health forms with Parts A, B1, B2, and C. The new forms are available here: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/>

BSA does not permit a website to host any version, even a blank version, of the AHMR; rather, websites can show the link to the current form.

Frequently Asked Questions are available here:

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/medical-formfaqs/>

For other questions, please follow instructions at

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/got-questions/>

Information on How to Review the AHMR is available here:

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/how-to-review-the-ahmr/>

AHMR Safety Moment:

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/annual-health-and-medical-record/>

Bryan on Scouting

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2019/12/10/theres-an-updated-annual-health-and-medical-record-to-use-for-2020/>

National Scouting

Scouting magazine news

The print version of *Scouting* magazine ended with the May-June 2020 issue.

A brand-new *Scouting* magazine app is available now in the App Store and Google Play.

Archives of old editions are at <https://scoutingmagazine.org/backissues/> and at

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/SCOUT/>

BSA High Adventure Base reservations

Northern Tier

Check out Summer, Winter, and Autumn Adventures at <https://www.ntier.org/>

Philmont

<https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/registersection/>

Some crew slots for 2021 are open. Registration is open for Individual Treks, Ranch Hands, STEM Trek, OA Trail Crew, Trail Crew, Roving Outdoor Conservation School, Rayado, Family Adventure Camp, Training Center Conferences, NAYLE, Philmont Leadership Challenge, PhilBreak, Autumn Adventure, Volunteer Vacation.

Florida Sea Base

Check out 2022 Sea Base information and registrations at <https://www.bsaseabase.org/>

Summit Bechtel Reserve

Check out High Adventure, Scout Camp, Training and Conferences at

<https://www.summitbsa.org/>

International Scouting

<https://www.scouting.org/international/events/>

July 17-28, 2021, Central Florida Council International Scouting Jamboree

<https://jamborette.wordpress.com>

July 18 to 22, 2022, 16th World Scout Moot

Young people aged between 18 and 26 years on the first day of the Moot are eligible to attend as participants. For more information, please check out

WorldScoutMoot.ie and [US Contingent Information Page here.](#)

Opportunities for service on the staff (International Service Team aka IST) will be open.

August 1-12, 2023, 25th World Scout Jamboree, Saemanguem, South Korea

2023 World Jamboree Host Site

<http://www.2023wsjkorea.org>

2023 USA World Jamboree Contingent Site

<https://wsj2023.us>

European Scout Voluntary Program

<https://www.scouting.org/international/ecamp/>

Participants must be 18 to 30 years old and must commit to serve on camp staff in Europe for at least 6 weeks.

Kandersteg International Scout Centre

<https://www.kisc.ch/>

International BSA Blog

<https://www.scouting.org/international/international-adventure/>

ORDER OF THE ARROW – APACHE CHAPTER

New and Old — *Where To Go Camping Guide 2021*

The Catawba Lodge *Where To Go Camping Guide* is alive and well at

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ndu424I1iDZnpVFMplqDohSRGk7pYDkq3indesA22wQ/e/dit?usp=sharing>

The *WTGCG* is a large file (275 pages) with all kinds of information related to camping opportunities, in local camps, parks, state and national forests, High Adventure Bases, national and international events, by way of car camping, backpacking, and float trips.

Link your Lodge Email to your Personal Email

Some of you may not know how to access your Lodge email account, or may be unaware that you have one. You can find instructions on forwarding all of your Lodge emails to your personal email account at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwrGkVVw08OudS1xSHZib1RSS1U/view?usp=sharing>

Please follow these instructions to keep up on Lodge Events.

The Catawba Lodge Executive Board (LEB) established dates for Lodge events in 2021 at its January meeting:

February 12-13 OA Ordeal at BSC

March 19-21 OA Spring Fellowship at BSC

April 17 OA Workday at MSR

April 23-25 OA Conclave at Camp Daniel Boone

May 14-16 OA Ordeal & Beaver Day at MSR

June 4-6 OA Ordeal at BSC

September 10-12 OA Ordeal at BSC
October 1-3 OA Fall Fellowship at BSC
December 3 OA Banquet at BSC

OA High Adventure Opportunities

Summer, 2021

OA Canadian Odyssey (Northern Tier)
OA Ocean Adventure (Florida Sea Base)
OA Summit Experience (Summit Bechtel Reserve)
OA Trail Crew (Philmont Scout Ranch)
OA Wilderness Voyage (Northern Tier)

<https://oa-bsa.org/high-adventure>

OA, Southern Region, 2020 National Leadership Seminars (NLS) (for youth)

<http://southern.oa-bsa.org/nls/>

Sept 24-26, 2021, Orlando, FL

Nov 12-14, 2021, BSA National Office, Irving, TX

Dec 10-12, 2021, Greensboro, NC

OA, Southern Region, 2020 Developing Youth Leadership Conferences (DYLC) (for advisers)

<http://southern.oa-bsa.org/dylc/>

Sept 24-26, 2021, Orlando, FL

Nov 12-14, 2021, BSA National Office, Irving, TX

Dec 10-12, 2021, Greensboro, NC

TRAINING NEWS

<https://www.scoutshop.org/trained-leader-strip-280.html>

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33066/33066_Training_Awards_WEB.pdf

“Trained” Patches for Youth Leaders

Scout youth leaders who have completed Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST), den chiefs (Scouts, Sea Scouts, or Venturers) who have completed Den Chief Training, and Venturing youth leaders who have completed the Crew Officers Orientation or Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews (ILSC) may wear the Trained Leader emblem with their badge of office.

Den Chief training is available online at

<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth/den-chief-training/>

ILST and ILSC are available online at

<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth/>

Youth should print their certificates to present to unit leaders for facilitate record keeping.

Youth Training

SEALS is canceled for the spring. NYLT registration opens February 1; it is scheduled June 27-July 2: <https://sites.google.com/view/nyltopgun>

SEALS (for youth) and **IOLS** (for adults) courses at Belk Scout Camp are planned for the second weekend of March and for the second weekend in November on an ongoing basis.

<https://sites.google.com/site/bsamcctraining/>

SEALS - Scouts Excited About Leadership Skills [for youth] at Belk Scout Camp

Canceled SEALS course: Friday-Saturday-Sunday, March 12-13-14, 2021

<https://sites.google.com/site/mccseals/home>

Next SEALS course: Friday-Saturday-Sunday, November 12-14, 2021

NEW - National Youth Leader Training (NYLT, AKA "Top Gun")

<https://sites.google.com/view/nyltopgun>

The next MCC NYLT course is scheduled for June 27 - July 2, 2021 with registration for this course opening February 1, 2021.

National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE) at Philmont

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

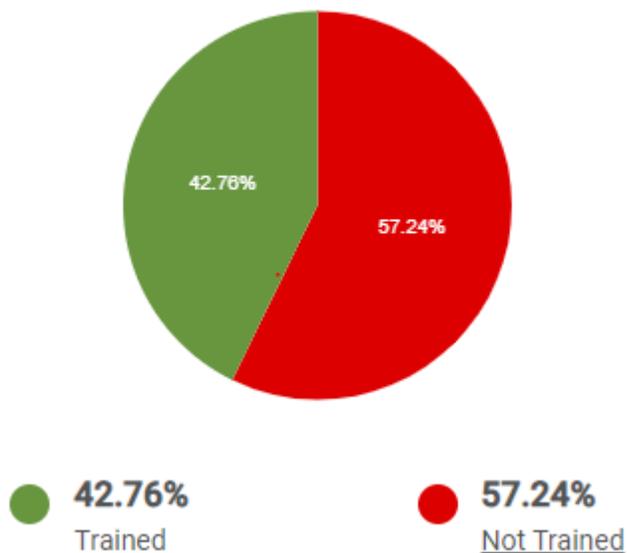
National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE) at Summit

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

Adult Training

Apache District

Apache District's percentage of trained leaders in "direct contact" roles is shockingly low, just 43%. What parent would send their children to a school with that few of their teachers certified to teach? In this condition, how can we support and defend Scouting. Help us remedy this!



Please get trained to position online through the following links, and if you are a Scoutmaster or ASM, please sign up for OLS. This will entitle you to wear a "Trained" strip.

- Den Leader & Assistant Den Leader: <https://training.scouting.org/learning-plans/1055> - 125 minutes
- Cubmaster & Assistant Cubmaster: <https://training.scouting.org/learning-plans/1051> - 117 minutes
- Scoutmasters & ASMs: <https://training.scouting.org/learning-plans/1194> - 192 minutes
- Pack Committee: <https://training.scouting.org/learning-plans/1063> - 53 minutes

- Troop Committee <https://training.scouting.org/learning-plans/1195> - 102 minutes
- Merit Badge Counselor <https://training.scouting.org/learning-plans/1188> - 35 minutes

Upcoming Classes

- OLS (Outdoor Leadership Skills): May 22-23. Only 36 spots available!
<https://sites.google.com/site/outdoorleaderskillsmcc/home>
- Another OLS opportunity: February 20-21, 2021, Lincoln, NC
<https://www.piedmontcouncilbsa.org/2021iols>
- College of Commissioner Science online, February 27. All leaders welcome.
<https://mccscouting.doubleknot.com/event/college-of-commissioner-science-spring-20211/2764269>
- COPE & Climbing Instructor Level 1 training, Belk Scout Camp, April 30-May 1.

BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation) [for adults] at Belk Scout Camp

BALOO is an introduction to the Cub Scout outdoor program.

The last course on Saturday-Sunday, November 14-15 was very successful.

Prerequisite online training is accessed through <https://my.scouting.org/>

Information on future courses will be posted at

<https://sites.google.com/site/bsamcctraining>

Wilderness First Aid

<https://sites.google.com/site/bsamcctraining>

College of Commissioner Science training

Mecklenburg County Council will host virtual training for Commissioner on February 27, 2021. Sign up deadline is February 15. For a link to on-line registration, please click on

<https://sites.google.com/site/bsamcctraining/>

MCC Wood Badge S5-415-20 at Belk Scout Camp

<https://sites.google.com/site/s5415woodbadge/home>

Wood Badge S5-415-20 is scheduled at Belk Scout Camp, starting on **Friday, March 26, 2021 at 7:00 am through Sunday, March 28, 2021 at 5:00 pm and Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 7:00 am through Sunday, April 18, 2021 at 5:00 pm.**

<https://sites.google.com/site/s5415woodbadge/home>

COPE and Climbing Instructor Level 1 training

April 30-May 2, 2021 at Belk Scout Camp

For more information, please click on

<https://sites.google.com/site/bsamcctraining/cope-climbing-instructor-training>

Philmont Training Center 2021 Conferences [for adult volunteer training]

BSA Family Adventure Camp

<https://www.philmontscouttranch.org/ptc/>

Unit Training Achievement

Congratulations and thanks to our units with 100% trained direct contact leaders:

- Pack 613
- Troop 11
- Troop 111
- Crew 167

- Crew 249

Units with 75% or higher trained. Keep climbing!

- Troop 9
- Troop 56

For more information, please contact District Training Chair Towner Blackstock at townerblackstock@gmail.com, 704-491-4010.

Recognize Scouter Excellence

“Trained” Patches for Adult Leaders

Adults leaders can find requirements for earning their “Trained” patches at https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/Trained_Leader_Positions.pdf along with references to online training courses available at <https://my.scouting.org> Another resource is <https://www.scouting.org/training/adult/> Online District Committee training is available.

Units, recognize your uniformed leaders by presenting them “Trained” patches and the following awards. These knots require training to position and tenure:

- Den Leader Award
 - Scout Leader's Training Award (Any leader)
 - Scouter Key (Cubmasters and Scoutmasters)
 - Unit Leader Award of Merit (Committee submits for Cubmasters and Scoutmasters)
- Requirements and tracking forms: <https://boyscouttrail.com/square-knots.asp>

Square Knots

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2017/02/17/scouting-service-award-combines-five-awards-into-one-cool-new-square-knot/>
<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2019/07/17/square-knot-rankings-what-are-the-most-and-least-awarded-square-knots/>
<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2012/11/20/in-the-loop-a-guide-to-square-knots-and-how-to-wear-them/>
<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2011/03/04/alumni-knot/>
<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2017/03/15/how-to-tell-if-your-scouting-square-knot-is-upside-down/>
<https://scoutingmagazine.org/issues/0901/a-knots.html>
<https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/community-organization-award/>
<https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/lifesaving-meritorious-action/>
<https://www.scouting.org/awards/hornaday-awards/>
<https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/religious-emblems/>
<https://www.scouting.org/awards/religious-awards/>
https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-879_WB.pdf
<https://nesa.org/for-eagle-scouts/awards-and-recognition/>

Spread the Word About Scouting

Please don't keep us a secret

With all the new parents coming into our Scouting family, please don't keep Smoke Signals and the Apache District Webpage a secret. We welcome new subscribers and it is easy to subscribe. Also, please help us by sharing these links:

Apache District Webpage

<https://www.mccscouting.org/apache>

Like the Apache Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/ApacheDistrict>

Apache Twitter Account

Be sure to follow us on twitter [@ApacheDistrict](#)

Mecklenburg County Council

<https://www.mccscouting.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MeckBSA/>

<https://www.instagram.com/mccscouting/>

Like the Mecklenburg County Council Merit Badge Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/MCCBSAMB>

Like the Mecklenburg County Council STEM Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/MCCBSASTEM/>

BSA National

Scouting Wire Volunteer Newsletter - The Official Blog of the Scouting Movement.

<http://scoutingwire.org>

Bryan on Scouting is the official blog of Scouting magazine, a Boy Scouts of America publication. The blog post is sent as one email per weekday. To subscribe, please go to <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/contact/>

To Submit News or an Announcement to Apache District Smoke Signals e-newsletter:

If you have any news or events or links that you would like to share Apache District leaders, please send that information to stutucker@aol.com for editing, publication, and distribution. Please include your contact information for follow up questions.

To Subscribe to Mecklenburg County Council Backpack e-newsletter:

Please go to <https://www.mccscouting.org/>

Scroll to the bottom of the page, fill in your "Name" and "Email Address", then Click on the blue "Subscribe Now" bar.

To Subscribe or Unsubscribe to Apache District Smoke Signals e-newsletter:

Subscribe: If this E-Newsletter was forwarded to you and if you are not on our list and if you would like to be added, then please send a blank e-mail with subject "Smoke Signals Subscribe" to: al@nedrich.com from the e-mail address you want subscribed. We do not need any additional information.

Unsubscribe: Just send an e-mail with "Smoke Signals Unsubscribe" in the subject line to al@nedrich.com from the e-mail address you want unsubscribed.

Apache District Marketing Committee
704 333 0001