



SCOUTING TRAILS

Rip Van Winkle Council, BSA #405
1300 Ulster Avenue, Suite 107
Kingston, NY 12401

Late February Newsletter

BE THE CHANGE

Scouts and Scouters,

Change is hard. It's frightening. It's makes us uncomfortable. It sometimes takes us places we may not have gone by choice

Earlier this week, I had the opportunity to watch the national recognition for the inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts. Eagle Scouts have been leading positive change in their communities for more than a century. That tradition continues with these female Eagle Scouts.

As I have been having conversations with folks about the growing presence of youth and adult females in the Scouting program, it has been received with mixed emotions. Some people are excited, some not so much.

Here is what I know:

- The purpose of Scouting is to encourage the physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual development of young people so that they take a constructive place in society as responsible citizens, and as members of their local, national and international communities
- In Scouting, boys and girls start with their best right now selves and grow into their very best future selves. It's fun, hands-on learning and achievement that puts kids in the middle of the action and prepares them for today – and for life.
- The girls that were just recognized for earning the rank of Eagle Scout met the same requirements that every male Eagle Scout did.
- Personally, the Scouting program made a significant mark on my life, both as a youth and as an adult. This same Scouting program made a significant mark on my sons lives as well. I watched them grow and develop in Scouting. I watched them grow into wonderful adults who are role models for their own children. I credit their mother and the Scouting program for them being the fine men they have become. Each has become a servant leader in their own way.
- I also know this...both my granddaughters and my grandson deserve the opportunity to participate in the Scouting program that is offered by the BSA.

I ask you to help us ***Be the Change*** in Greene and Ulster Counties and bring the Scouting program to more boys and girls. They deserve the opportunity as well.

Be safe! We are all in this together.

See you down the trail...

Dana E. Kuhns
Scout Executive/CEO

COUNCIL AND DISTRICT CALENDAR DATES

FEBRUARY

27 RVWC - Eagle Workshop

MARCH

1 CS Leader Position Specific Trainers meeting

1 Council Camping and Outdoor Programs committee meeting

6 RVWC – Klondike Derby

7 OA - LEC

8 OA – Lodge meeting

12 OA - Developing Youth Leadership Conference

12 OA - National Leadership Seminar

13 RVWC - Camp In A Box leaders meeting

16 RVWC - Finance Committee

20 RVWC - Cub Scout Leader Position Specific Training

22 RVWC - Executive Board meeting

27 J - Passover begins at sunset

27 A2 - TENTATIVE Area 2 leaders meeting

28-3/4 C - Holy Week

28 C - Palm Sunday

28-3/3 J - Passover

28 OA - LEC

APRIL

2 C - Good Friday

2 RVWC - Service Center and Scout Shop Closed

4 C - Easter

5 OA – Lodge meeting

12 I - Ramadan begins at sunset

14 AD - Algonquin District Committee meeting

16 I - Ramadan

17 OA - Lodge Leadership Development

20 RVWC - Finance Committee

23 I - Ramadan

26 RVWC - Executive Committee meeting

30 RVWC - Council Spring Camporee

30 CDC - Discount Cards final Payment and Card Return

30 I – Ramadan

Calendar acronyms:

A2 - Area 2

C – Christian holiday

CDC - Council Discount Card

CS - Cub Scout

I - Islamic holiday

J - Jewish holiday

OA - Order of the Arrow

RVWC - Rip Van Winkle Council

IS IT SCOUTING? SNOWMOBILES AND OTHER PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

Recent inquiries on the national level regarding the use of snowmobiles, which is a prohibited activity for ALL program levels, and two other recent incidents highlight why The Scouting program eliminates risk by prohibiting certain activities.

The first incident was a youth who flipped a jeep while driving in camp. The other incident was a “log toss competition” that resulted in a closed head injury to a leader.

Below are two related safety moments which can assist with defining official Scouting activities and the “why” behind the prohibited activity listing.

Is it Scouting?

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/is-it-scouting/>

Prohibited Activities

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/authorized-restricted-activities/>

REMINDER: COVID-19 AND BSA SHORT-TERM CAMPS/EVENTS DECISION GUIDE

The decision to host all types of programs and events is a local council operational decision. The information in the COVID-19 and BSA Short-Term Camps/Events Decision Guide below is provided as a guide to assist local council leadership. Council leadership must work in conjunction with local health officials to meet current regulatory requirements. This discussion guide is a resource that should be shared with and utilized by appropriate staff and volunteers who are planning camps and events during the COVID 19 global pandemic.

The questions represented herein do not constitute an exhaustive list and are a minimum standard when considering conducting a camp/event. For additional resources, visit [BSA Outdoor Programs](#) or the [National BSA COVID 19 webpages](#)

REMINDER: CHANGE IN SCOUTBOOK EFFECTIVE MARCH 1

Effective March 1, 2021, Scoutbook’s leader invite process will perform a check for a BSA issued Member ID and active BSA registration when being invited to connect with the unit roster. Prior to March 1, unit leaders should check their rosters in Member Manager at my.scouting.org to ensure all adult leaders listed in Scoutbook are also registered on the official roster or otherwise with the BSA. Action should be taken with the local council to ensure all adult leaders are registered with the BSA.

BSA PRESIDENT AND CEO ROGER MOSEBY SHARES THOUGHTS ON THE 111TH BIRTHDAY OF THE BSA

February 2021

Scouting Family:

On February 8th, I’m going to wear my Scouting uniform, and I encourage you all to do the same as we celebrate the Boy Scouts of America’s 111th birthday.

It’s a moment to acknowledge the contributions made by millions of young people and adults to Scouting, as well as the power of our Movement to bring people together to make a positive difference in our communities, our country, and the world. It is a moment to both reflect and look forward.

This past year demonstrated that the BSA’s mission is more important than ever before. When the pandemic uprooted our lives, seemingly overnight, our volunteers and employees found [innovative ways to continue delivering programming](#) and a sense of normalcy, which were foundational to so many young lives. Thousands of Scouts tuned in to virtual events for [activities](#) and [adventures from home](#). Units across the country volunteered in their communities at a time when their service was needed most. And in

cases where it was safe to do so, Scouts escaped the great indoors with their families or with socially distant Scouting activities.

As much as we persevered, there's no denying that this past year was filled with extraordinary challenges—some we faced as a country and others as an organization.

But here's one thing I know about the Scouting family: no matter how insurmountable challenges may seem, we can and do rise above when we do so together.

Difficult moments do not define us. What defines us is how we address those moments, learn from them, grow from them, and move forward as one Movement dedicated to preparing young men and women for life.

As we look to 2021, we all have much to celebrate [as we welcome the inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts](#): a group of incredible young women who now share a remarkable achievement with all those who have earned the prestigious rank through the years. These young women are among the many Scouts who continue to find opportunities to serve their communities even on our most challenging days. This perseverance speaks to the resiliency and adaptability of our young people, our programs and our organization.

I have many hopes for the year ahead—a year when I expect more Scouts will be able to safely explore the great outdoors, go camping, and learn the many life lessons and skills that Scouting has to offer; I look forward to Scouting's continued role as a partner to families in building character, friendships and memories; and I look forward to coming together, however conditions allow, to continue to help other people at all times and showcase the immense good our Movement can do.

Whether you're a Scout, a volunteer, an employee or one of the millions of Scouting alumni, **I ask you to join me in wearing the Scouting uniform, neckerchief, or a Scouting emblem on February 8th as a gesture of commitment to and celebration of Scouting's mission.** Whether you'll be at home, at the office, at school, or connected virtually with others, show your Scouting spirit with me that day in some fashion that might get others to ask you about the BSA.

And if given the opportunity, I ask you to share with family, friends, neighbors and colleagues what Scouting means to you. I am sure each of us will share something unique, but I also believe our stories will share core threads: memorable adventures, character-building moments and leadership-defining lessons. Our unique Scouting story helps define us as individuals, and—collectively—they define us as a Movement. I am proud of what we have accomplished in our 111-year history, and I'm energized by what I know we will accomplish in the next 100 years and beyond.

Yours in Scouting,

Roger Mosby

President and CEO

REMINDER: BSA HAS UPDATED ITS NATIONAL STATEMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON COVID-19

Everyone should review the latest updates to the BSA's national statement and recommendations concerning the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Find information and links to multiple resources here:

<https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus/>.

The updates feature an emphasis on using the adapted CDC guidance for the general public as the minimum guidelines for Scouting participants. This is in addition to any state and local regulations and council guidelines. Updates also further encourage use of [the Model COVID-19 Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist](#) prior to conducting any Scouting activities.

Additionally, updates have been made to the COVID-19 FAQ, which can be accessed here:

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

ON BEHALF OF THE ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Well, it is that time of the year for our Eagle workshop. It will be a zoom class on Saturday, February 27, 2021 starting at 9:00 am and finishing approximately 12:00 pm. This session is intended for all Life Scouts, Star (almost Life Scouts), parent's and unit leaders.

We will go over the process of becoming an Eagle Scout, covering merit badges, duty positions and the infamous Eagle project workbook.

It is a worthwhile training course to take any confusion out of the process. Scout leaders please encourage your Scouts to join us for this course.

Mike Harrison
Eagle Scout Coordinator

To participate, use the following link:

Topic: **Eagle Workshop**

Time: **Feb 27, 2021 09:00 AM** Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93514665050?pwd=SVI3WVRCZThJaDk0Y044ZW1PYTIYdz09>

Meeting ID: 935 1466 5050

Passcode: XxWP9M

Dial by your location

646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 935 1466 5050

Passcode: 878032

SUMMER CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES

As we announced at the State of the Council meeting, Camp Tri-Mount will not be opening for summer camp this year.

With that statement, we have arranged with a number of local councils for our Scouts to attend summer camp with them this summer if you choose.

The following councils are eager to accept Scouts from the Rip Van Winkle Council:

CAMP / ADDRESS / COUNCIL / WEBSITE	MILES FROM KINGSTON	TIME (HRS)	COMMENTS	POINT OF CONTACT
<i>Camp Achahela</i> 286 T635 Blakeslee, PA 18610 Northeastern Pennsylvania Council http://nepabsa.org/camps/camp-achahela/summer-camp/resident-camp	135	2.5	Cub Scout only	Dave Srebro Dave.Srebro@scouting.org
<i>Goose Pond Scout Reservation</i> 1047 Goose Pond Rd Lake Ariel, PA 18436 Northeastern Pennsylvania Council http://gpsr.nepabsa.org/	112	1.75	Scouts BSA only	Dave Srebro Dave.Srebro@scouting.org

<p><i>Ockanickon Scout Reservation</i> 5787 State Park Rd Pipersville, PA 18947 Washington Crossing Council https://bsawcc.org/resources/camping/ockanickon/</p>	146	2.5	Scouts BSA only	Todd Warner Todd.Warner@scouting.org
<p><i>Curtis S. Read Scout Reservation</i> 1377 Palisades Rd Brant Lake, NY 12815 Greater Hudson Valley Council https://www.ghvbsa.org/read/</p>	139	2.25	Scouts BSA only	GHV.Camping@scouting.org
<p><i>Camp Nootteeming</i> 22 Camp Nootteeming Rd Salt Point, NY 12578 Greater Hudson Valley Council https://www.ghvbsa.org/nootteeming/</p>	23	0.75	Cub Scout only	GHV.Camping@scouting.org

2021 DISCOUNT CARDS ARE AVAILABLE!

Our 2021 Discount Cards are ready and available. If you want to sell 2021 Discount Cards, please have your unit's Committee Chair fill out the attached commitment form along with the unit's Discount Card Coordinator information.

Please list how many cards you're interested in starting out with.

Just a reminder, any money you turn in for discount cards goes towards your 2021 Fairshare.

If your unit wants to participate, please submit your unit's commitment form back to the Council Service Center as soon as possible.

We have cards for the following area: Highland; Ellenville; Kingston; Route 28 West; Catskill; and the Mohican District

COMMIT TO THE SERVICE THIS SUMMER!

Join Scouting families across the country in a spirited *Summer of Service!* As we have throughout our history, Scouting families have answered the call to work together in service of the greater good. From public health drives...to caring for the environment...to assisting neighbors in need...Scouts have always been a force for positivity and goodness in our communities. Now more than ever, our world needs that Scouting spirit once again. Let's step up! Let's answer the call to make a positive impact in our neighborhoods and communities. Join us in a summer of service!

For more information, register here:

<https://www.scouting.org/summerofservice/>



CUB SCOUT LEADER POSITION SPECIFIC TRAINING IS BACK!

We heard you are looking for unit leader training and we are here to please you.

We are holding Cub Scout Leader training on Saturday, March 20, from 930AM to 230PM at the American Legion Post 150 in Kingston. We ask Cub Scout Leaders to sign up at the office. Do not forget, bring a friend with you to training.



If there are any unit leaders, both Cub Scout and Scouts BSA that are interested in being instructors please contact Pete Fairbrother at: fairbrop@newpaltz.edu. As time gets closer, we will contact the individuals signed up with any additional requirements. The contact information for the Council office is phone: 845-339-0846 to sign up for the sessions. Please do not wait until the last minute, this way we can plan properly.

Specifics:

Cub Scout Leader Position Specific Training
Saturday
March 20, 2021
Check-In at 9:15
Training from 9:30AM to 2:30PM

Location:

American Legion Post 150
18 W O'Reilly Street
Kingston, NY 12401

What to bring:

Your own lunch.
A laptop with you. (Optional)
The access codes to your Pack's Scoutbook account. (Optional)

For additional information, contact Peter Fairbrother, Council Training Chair, at fairbrop@yahoo.com

2021 FAIR SHARE (OUR SHARE)

Key points from the State of the Council presentation:

The youth member count will be based on the unit membership count on May 15th, 2021. (This date allows for bridge-overs and adjustments to membership)

Units will commit to doing their best to hit the 2021 Goal of \$125 per youth member count.

Units that **DO NOT** make Fair Share in 2021 (Units that do not raise at least \$125 per *youth member count*)

- The 2022 Unit Re-charter Our Share fee will be \$50 per person (Youth and Adult). This will be applied to the 2022 Fair Share (Our Share) goal of \$125 per youth member count.

Units that **DO** make their Fair Share in 2021:

There are three (3) achievement levels in the Fair Share (Our Share) program.

- Achieve 100% to 110% of \$125 Per youth.
 - Scouts BSA Troops earn advancement embroidered patches for 2022

- Advancements.
- Cub Scout Packs earn advancement embroidered patches, belt loops and pins for 2022 advancements.
- One (1) tent or lean-to camping weekends at Camp Trimount. (must be scheduled)
- Achieve 111% to 125% of \$125 Per youth.
 - Earn above plus+
 - Two (2) Tickets to the Council Recognition Dinner in May 2022.
 - An additional One (1) tent or lean-to camping weekends at Camp Trimount (must be scheduled).
- Achieve 126% and over Per Youth (Spirit of Scouting)
 - Scouts can donate anything above 125% to other Troops, Packs, Crews or Posts needing assistance in achieving their fair share goal.
- What is available to help?
 - Fall Popcorn Sales
 - Candy Sales
 - Fall Bowl-a-thon
 - Discount Card
 - Friends of Scouting (FOS)
 - Unit Organized Fundraisers

2020 JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

Guidebooks

- Pack [2020 Pack](#) 
- Troop [2020 Troop](#) 
- Crew [2020 Crew](#) 
- Ship [2020 Ship](#) 



[Journey to Excellence Spreadsheets](#)

To print these guides,
download as a PDF and PRINT

Use this link to find JTE Resources and then scroll down for the Spreadsheets referred to in the Guidebooks

2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges, and a round of modifications to the JTE Spreadsheets... Now is the time to capture what good your Unit has accomplished and recognize your Scouts and Leaders for such. Then... with having set the benchmark for improvement, aim for **GOLD** in 2021; it can very reasonably be achieved by all!



PLEASE download the appropriate Spreadsheets from the above links, complete and have your Unit Leadership sign and submit your District Commissioner, me, or drop off / mail to the Council Office ASAP. We will see it is reviewed and processed.

Algonquin District Commissioner: Vince Terrone (viterrone@yahoo.com)

Mohican District Commissioner: Tom Birk (thomas.birk69@gmail.com)
RVW Council Commissioner: Mike Decker (mdecker@hvc.rr.com)

Don't forget to order Recognition (Patches/Streamers/Pins/Plaques) for your Unit as well.

KLONDIKE DERBY - 2021



The 2021 Rip Van Winkle Council Klondike Derby for Scouts BSA will be held at the Foxmoor Farm Property on Bogert Lane (off Old Kings Highway) in Lake Katrine. This event will be run as an adventure trail style program with patrols of 4 to 7 Scouts competing in various events.

The derby is being held Saturday March 6, 2021. Units will be assigned a check-in time between 8:30 am and 12:30 pm in 20-minute increments. For additional information Scouts BSA Leaders should go to the Council Website

<https://www.rvwbsa.org/content/90437/Klondike-Derby-2021>

Why should your Troop attend?

- Our Scouts need to get outside for “normal” activities. The Klondike gives them an opportunity to see other Troops and Scouts and to test their skills.
- The events are based on Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class & First Class Advancement – so a quick skills review should handle any prep.
- We expect that the event will last about 4½ hours for the teams from check-in to departure.
- This is a start of council wide activities for the Council – we need your support to demonstrate that these can be done safely and still have fun.

Any questions, please drop us an email so that we can send the question and answer to all.

Yours in Scouting,

Heath A. Tong
Outdoor Programs and Camping Chairman
hatong@aol.com

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION MERIT BADGE

We have been told that the new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion merit badge is on hold. We have not been given any information as to when the requirements will be released, or when the Merit Badge will be required.

ORDER OF THE ARROW NEWS

Hey Lodge Members and Unit Leaders – we need your help! We have learned that several youth and adult members of our Lodge are not receiving emails and other communications. If you are one of those please send your name, phone number and email address to douglas.whitaker@scouting.org so that we can update our records. There are lots of things that will be occurring this spring that we would like you to attend including the next Lodge Meeting which will be held by Zoom on Monday March 8th at 7:00 pm. Please watch for an email from Half Mood Lodge # 28.

NEW EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR FOR MOHICAN DISTRICT (SAUGERTIES AND GREEN COUNTY)

After many years of faithful service, Chris Algozzine has stepped down as the Eagle Coordinator for the Mohican District. Our new Eagle Scout Coordinator is Matt White. Matt is an Eagle Scout and is currently serving as an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 36 in Saugerties. Thank-you Matt for stepping forward.

SCOUTS BSA SCOUT LEADER ROUNDTABLE

The next Scouts BSA Scout leader roundtable will be held on Monday, March 15th at 7:00pm. Additional information will be sent out prior to the meeting. Below is the zoom meeting link for the roundtable. All Scouts BSA leaders and adults are encouraged to attend.

Topic: Scouts BSA Leaders Roundtable

Time: Mar 15, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87318324411?pwd=Sko2N1hRSmpmbXZWZGI2QzBEdzN6UT09>

Meeting ID: 873 1832 4411

Passcode: 5QhyTp

One tap mobile

+1646 876 9923, 87318324411#,,,,*821161# US (New York)

Dial by your location:

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 873 1832 4411

Passcode: 821161

CUB SCOUT LEADER ROUNDTABLE

The next Cub Leader Roundtable will be held on Wednesday, March 17th at 7:00pm. Additional information will be sent out prior to the meeting. Below is the zoom meeting link for the roundtable. All Cub Leaders and adults are encouraged to attend.

Topic: Cub Leader Roundtable

Time: Mar 17, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84073182927?pwd=dDh4cXBoU0tnTWxTYVo4YkpzQ0d2dz09>

Meeting ID: 840 7318 2927

Passcode: 8p73Hx

One tap mobile

+16468769923, 84073182927#,,,,*552534# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 840 7318 2927

Passcode: 552534