



SCOUTING TRAILS

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

May 2021 Newsletter

Scouts and Scouters,

Summer is just around the corner! And if you are like me, you cannot wait to get outside and enjoy what the season has to offer.

Earlier this year, it was announced during the Roundtables and through the newsletter that we would not be operating Camp Tri-Mount as a summer camp this year. We still hear from the occasional volunteer that is surprised we are not operating. I am not quite sure what to do to correct that failure to communicate.

We are also getting asked about the availability of Camp Tri-Mount for a unit to use for a weekend campout or a long-term camp this summer. Under the current NYS Department of Health rules, we are not permitted to open Camp Tri-Mount for overnight activities with youth. As soon as the state allows, we will open Camp Tri-Mount for unit-organized overnight camping opportunities. Please note, the Department of Health has not yet provided standards for us to meet in order to open. Once we know what we are expected to do and provide, we will begin the process of opening Tri-Mount again.

To prepare for this anticipated reopening, we have scheduled a Beaver Day at camp. Volunteers from across the council will be coming to camp on Saturday, May 15, for a day of service. Come on out and join us! I hope to see you there!

Finally, as we transition from Spring to Summer, let us all begin to plan to get our units functioning better and doing more outside. Let's join Scouting families across the country in a spirited Summer of Service! As we have throughout our history, Scouting families are answering 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! Together, we can answer the call to make a positive impact in our neighborhoods and communities. Join us today, with projects big or small, in a Summer of Service!

Be safe! We are all in this together.

See you down the trail...

Dana E. Kuhns
Scout Executive/CEO



COUNCIL CALENDAR

RIP VAN WINKLE COUNCIL SERVICE CENTER

May	Subject
2	OA - LEC
6	MD - Mohican District Committee meeting
7	I - Ramadan
9	H - Mother's Day
12	I - Eid al Fatr begins at sunset
12	AD - Algonquin District Committee meeting
13	I - Eid al Fatr
15	CTM - Beaver Day at Camp Tri-Mount
16	J - Shavuot begins at sunset
17	J - Shavuot
18	RVWC - Finance Committee
21	RVWC - Scouts BSA Leader Fundamentals
24	RVWC - Executive Board RVWC - Council Service Center and Scout Shop
31	Closed
31	US - Memorial Day

June

4	CTM - Camp Closed
4	OA - Spring Ordeal
4	OA - Spring Fellowship Weekend
9	AD - Algonquin District Committee meeting
10	MD - Mohican District Committee meeting
11	OA - Conclave
11	CTAA - CTAA Yard Sale
14	US - Flag Day
15	RVWC - Finance Committee RVWC - TENTATIVE Council Eagle Dinner and Reunion
17	RVWC - Finance Committee
20	H - Father's Day
23	RVWC - Program Launch
23	OA - LEC
28	RVWC - Executive Committee meeting

HOURS

Monday	10:00AM to 6:00PM
Tuesday	10:00AM to 6:00PM
Wednesday	10:00AM to 6:00PM
Thursday	10:00AM to 6:00PM
Friday	10:00AM to 6:00PM
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed

845-339-0846 – Phone
845-339-1168 - Fax

Calendar acronyms:

AD	- Algonquin District	I	- Islamic holiday
C	- Christian holiday	J	- Jewish holiday
CDC	- Council Discount Card	MD	- Mohican District
CS	- Cub Scout	OA	- Order of the Arrow
CTAA	- Camp Tri-Mount Alumni Assn.	RVWC	- Rip Van Winkle Council
CTM	- Camp Tri-Mount		

BEAVER DAY – MAY 15TH

Mark your calendar for Beaver Day on May 15th. This will be the first time since March 2020 that we will have the opportunity to do much needed maintenance projects in Camp. We have projects for all ages and skill sets – from cleaning a campsite – painting – construction projects – electrical – cleaning – landscaping – etc., etc. We need both physical help as well as monetary help or material donations. We have had no income in camp since March 2020 and are asking units to consider funding a project you are willing to do.

Of course, due to the Pandemic, COVID Protocols will be in place. This will include staggered arrivals, “pods” of workers be it family or unit working on their own – Health Readiness Assessment forms and re-check by our Camp EMTs upon arrival.

A list of projects has been emailed to each unit – please look and see what you may like to do.

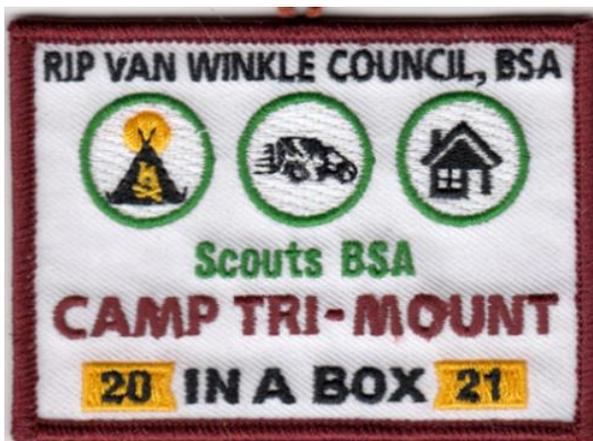


We hope to have the camp open to units soon and we are also having an Eagle event at camp on June 19th so there is lots to do. If interested, please email Doug @ douglas.whitaker@scouting.org and we will get additional info out to you.

2021 CAMP IN A BOX (CIAB)

<https://www.rvwbsa.org/campinabox>

Your Scouts are invited to participate in the Camp Tri-Mount 2021 Camp-in-a-Box - a virtual week of Scout Camp. CIAB is all 4 weeks in July and the schedule is just like being at camp - minus the rain, bugs and forest critters. <https://www.rvwbsa.org/campinabox>



The cost is \$95 for the week - and \$80 for each additional week. Registration is now open for the 2021 Camp Tri-Mount in a Box. Come join us as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary.

2021 Camp-in-a-Box registration includes:

- Registration for up to 5 Merit Badges (or up to 3 Merit Badges and our First Year Camper Experience (Skills covering ranks Scout through 1st Class))
- Free Camp-in-a-Box T-shirt
- Free Camp-in-a-Box Patch
- A box with various surprise goodies
- Live demos
- Guest Speakers

- Opening and Closing Campfires with songs and skits run by Staff and Scouts
- And much, much more

For more information and registration please go to; <https://www.rvwbsa.org/campinabox>

Questions? Please email me at either douglas.whitaker@scouting.org or douglaswhitaker@camptrimount.org

A GENTLE REMINDER FROM BRYAN ON SCOUTING

A few years ago, 22,000 Britons registering to access a free Wi-Fi hotspot neglected to read the fine print before clicking “OK.” They did not realize they had each agreed to 1,000 hours of community service, including cleaning toilets, scraping gum off the streets and (eww) clearing sewer blockages.

The prank, devised by a British internet company, was meant to remind everyone that it’s smart to read the fine print.

As Scouting volunteers, we don’t have to be tricked into doing acts of service that others might avoid. But at the same time, we’re busy people who might not read every word of the endless legalese that crosses our eyeballs each day.

While it’s natural to breeze past the fine print when installing an app or activating a smart TV, we at Bryan on Scouting want to point out one bit of BSA “fine print” that’s worth revisiting.

When you completed the adult leader application to officially join Scouting, one of the eight “leader requirements” you agreed to meet was this one: “Abide by the Scout Oath, Scout Law and Scouter Code of Conduct.”

You probably have those first two memorized. But the Scouter Code of Conduct? That code, which we first blogged about in 2017, is a list of 10 things that, as Scouters, we agree to do our best to do.

When you review the list of 10 below, you shouldn’t find any surprises there. The Scouter Code of Conduct is just about using the BSA’s program as designed, including all of the program features designed to protect youth from harm, abuse or trauma.

In the years since we first covered the code, it has been updated to reflect the BSA’s introduction of SAFE, an acronym to help Scouts and Scouters remember which safety points they should incorporate into any activity, including service projects. SAFE, which we blogged about in March, stands for:

- Supervision
- Assessment
- Fitness and Skill
- Equipment and Environment



WHAT IS THE 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 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

- SAFE: www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safe
4. When transporting Scouts, 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 Scouts 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 Scouts 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 with Scouting activities.

A FEW MORE THINGS WORTH MENTIONING

In the BSA's Barriers to Abuse, which is designed to protect our Scouts from harm, remember that "The chartered organization representative, or in their absence the executive officer of the chartered organization, must approve the registration of the unit's adult leaders."

BSA registration includes a criminal background check and mandatory Youth Protection training. As proven by the Scouter Code of Conduct, there are absolutely times when reading the "fine print" is more than just a good idea. It could actually help keep your Scouts safe and healthy.

WHAT ELSE IS ON THE REGISTRATION FORM?

You know about the Scouter Code of Conduct. Here's the full list of adult leader requirements from the application:

- Abide by the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and Scouter Code of Conduct.
- Subscribe to the precepts of the Declaration of Religious Principle.
- Reside within the USA or a U.S. territory, or be a U.S. citizen residing outside the USA.
- Be 21 years of age or older for primary leadership positions.

- Be 18 years of age or older for assistant leadership positions.
- Complete Youth Protection training (YPT) before application is processed and renew training as required by going to my.Scouting.org and creating an account.
- Review the disclosure information related to the BSA's background check process and complete and sign a Background Check Authorization form.
- Take leader position-specific training at my.Scouting.org. Classroom training may also be available through your local council.

MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR ANNUAL REGISTRATION FOR 2021-2022

May 31 marks the end of the registration year for all Merit Badge Counselors in the Rip Van Winkle Council. Thank you for your support in stepping up and volunteering in supporting our young men and women making their way on the path to Eagle.

The Council Advancement committee would like to know if you would volunteer for the upcoming 2021-2022 year. As in the past, Youth Protection Training, which consists of 4 modules, is required. In addition, there are other modules you can take to enhance your training as an MBC. They are not required, only suggested, as you may find it can strengthen your knowledge.

To access these training modules:

1. Sign into my.scouting.org
2. Then go to the menu at the upper left-hand corner.
3. Drop down to "My Training" and then press the "Scouts BSA" button.
4. In the middle of the next page, you will see a box that says, "Merit Badge Counselor Position Specific Training" and you can begin from there.

You do not need to re-register with a new adult application.

All Merit Badge Counselors will be emailed directly with a request to reply and provide information. Those who would like to add merit badges to their list are asked to complete the attached Merit Badge Counselor application in the email. The additional Merit Badges must be reviewed and approved before they are added to the existing file.

If a Merit Badge Counselor does not respond or their YPT is not up to date/complete, they will be dropped from the list.

Please be sure you check with your Troop's Merit Badge Counselors and make sure they respond by before May 31st.

SCOUTS IN ACTION

With more units getting back into the outdoors, please be sure to share your stories and photos with the Council. Our intent is to add a webpage to our Council website where we highlight the activities of our local Scouts and their units. It is a GREAT way for a unit to show off what they are up to and for a unit to visit and get some ideas about new activities try.



HELP US MAKE HISTORY - HUDSON VALLEY GIVES

Have you dreamed of making history? Of course, we all have. And now we have a chance to be a part of your community's day of giving - an opportunity to unite our community around causes in which we truly believe and help nonprofit organizations connect to the larger community.



We need your help! Please join our campaign and help us reach our goal of \$1000 and 25 donors! We need you to tell your friends and family members about the important work we do and ask them to join us in helping to make a difference.

Get ready to give! On May 19th, 2021, starting at 12AM on May 19, visit [hvgives.org](https://www.hvgives.org) and make a donation to us and/or to any of the great participating nonprofit organizations in your community.

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

<https://www.hvgives.org/organizations/rip-van-winkle-council-boy-scouts-of-america>

All giving will end at 11:59PM on May 19, so make sure to get your gift in on time!

Questions? If you have any questions or would like more information, let us know.

Thank you in advance for your generosity to our organization!

MIKE DECKER, COUNCIL COMMISSIONER

Greetings to all! For those I have not had the pleasure of yet meeting, my name is Mike Decker, your volunteer Council Commissioner for the Rip Van Winkle Council. My role is to serve the Council as a Key 3 leader, representing volunteers and Scouts to the Council's executive board, executive committee, and its professionals while maintaining the standards of the Boy Scouts of America, upholding national policies, and promoting good uniforming and morale. Additionally, I lead the Council commissioner core which we are looking to rebuild as we smartly emerge from the constraints of COVID. Some of the positions I am seeking volunteers for are:

- District Commissioner – Lead the Unit Commissioner for the District, promote unit performance & recognize unit leaders, and maintain a working relationship with the District Executive.
- Unit Commissioner - Supporting unit growth and retention with program through the journey to excellence.



Should you be willing to serve at the Unit or District level, or otherwise have a question or need assistance for your unit, please reach me at mdecker@hvc.rr.com or 845-399-5385.

In the civilian sector, I am the Site Building Engineering & Operations Manager for GLOBALFOUNDRIES in East Fishkill, a Semiconductor Foundry. I also serve in the United States Marine Corps as the Operations Chief for the Force Headquarters Group in New Orleans, La. Locally I serve on the City of

Kingston Ethics Board and am an active member of a multiple Veteran service organizations within the community, and Treasurer and ASM with Troop 8. My wife Kim is a TA at Meyer Elementary School and also serves as the Council Scouting for Food Chair and Committee Chair for Troop 8. Together we have two sons, Austin and Christopher, both Eagle Scouts.

I am a firm and passionate believer in the Scouting Program for the leadership, life learning skills, and opportunities the program provides to youth. It is the best means to influence and affect both their and our future in a positive and meaningful way.

BE SAFE WITH RESTART !!! <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-693.pdf>

ORDER OF THE ARROW NEWS

Hey Lodge Members and Unit Leaders – we **still** 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 May 10th at 7:00 pm. Please watch for an email from Half Mood Lodge # 28. The zoom meeting link for the Lodge Meeting is:

Erwin Lampman is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: **OA Lodge Meeting**
Time: **May 10, 2021 07:00 PM** Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83561745212?pwd=dzJOVmsybFpneEwrTmRWZ2orMjVNUT09>

Meeting ID: 835 6174 5212

Passcode: 8Wry5C

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,83561745212#,,,,*572823# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 835 6174 5212

Passcode: 572823

SCOUTS BSA SCOUT LEADER ROUNDTABLE

The next Scouts BSA Scout leader roundtable will be held on Monday, May 17th at 7:00pm. The subject for this Roundtable is Annual Program Planning and Developing an Annual Budget. We also be talking about Camp Use and the Camp Tri=Mount Camp-In-A-Box Program. **You are encouraged to invite your SPL & ASPL to this Roundtable since they are key to the Annual Planning Process.**

All Scouts BSA leaders and adults are encouraged to attend as well as your **SPL & ASPL(s)**.

Topic: **Scouts BSA Leader Roundtable**
Time: **May 17, 2021 07:00 PM** Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82248488590?pwd=cThKNzFET2YyQ0h5bVM2T0wyeTVydz09>

Meeting ID: 822 4848 8590

Passcode: f5qy3C

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,82248488590#,,,,*092264# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Passcode: 092264

CUB SCOUT LEADER ROUNDTABLE

The next Cub Leader Roundtable will be held on Wednesday, May 19th 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: **May 19, 2021 07:00 PM** Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83871721460?pwd=eGRtZ1RiRIJaVndUK0pCRTI3QIVjQT09>

Meeting ID: 838 7172 1460

Passcode: 4TAwuR

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,83871721460#,,,,*424161# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 838 7172 1460

Passcode: 424161

Scouts BSA Adult Leader Training May 21 – 23 AT CAMP TRI-MOUNT

Scoutmasters, Scout Leaders and Committee Members,

The Rip Van Winkle Council invites you to participate in a Virtual Position Specific Scout Leaders Training on Friday May 21st followed by an in-person Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) at Camp Tri-Mount on May 22nd & 23rd. IOLS a fun-filled program of hands-on skills training in the outdoors, designed to help you master basic camp skills required for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class.

Instructors will help you learn how to set up camp, cook, and work with woods tools, and about ropes, planning campfire programs, map reading and compass skills, hiking and packing techniques, nature identification, and outdoor ethics. Each outdoor session will bring to life the pages of the Scouts BSA handbooks to help you deliver the promise of Scouting to yourself and the youth serve. It will increase your comfort level and give you confidence as a trained, skilled leader. The program will also give you the opportunity to work with other Scout Leaders from your area, meet new friends, and reinforce skill techniques with fellow unit leaders. Along with Scoutmaster Specifics this course is required of all direct contact leaders registered in Boy Scout Troops to be considered "trained".

We look forward to hearing from and working with you in this unique and exciting program. Please complete the attached registration form and return it to the Council Office by May 19th so that we can

have enough materials. The cost for the weekend is \$10.00 which includes dinner and Cracker-barrel on Saturday. Training materials will be provided at no cost.

Once we have received your registration, we will send to you a gear list, and any other information you will need to join us – and please pass the word to other Scout leaders. We do not want anyone to miss out on the fun.

Registration form is attached.

CAMP TRI-MOUNT NEWS

Campmasters are needed to assist on the weekends at Camp Tri-Mount!! *What is a Camp Master?* The Campmaster will arrive on Friday evening, check in any units over the weekend, do a walkaround to check buildings and program areas, answer questions from units using the camp and checking them out on Sunday. *Where would you stay?* As a Campmaster you and your family would stay in the Savatgy Cabin. The cabin has 2 bedrooms, a living room and kitchen as well as a bathroom with shower. We need a folks that would be willing to take 1 or 2 weekends during the year. For more information contact Heath Tong – hatong@aol.com