



SCOUTING TRAILS

Rip Van Winkle Council, BSA #405

1300 Ulster Avenue, Suite 107

Kingston, NY 12401

July 2021 Newsletter

Scouts and Scouters,

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has made substantial progress in its Chapter 11 case by reaching an agreement alongside the Ad Hoc Committee of Local Councils with the Coalition of Abused Scouts for Justice, which represents a large majority of claimants in our Chapter 11 case, the Official Tort Claimants Committee (TCC), and the Future Claimants Representative (FCR). This agreement ensures that the BSA has the overwhelming support of survivors for our proposed Plan of Reorganization, which is a key step in the BSA's path toward emerging from bankruptcy.

The national organization has agreed to contribute assets with up to \$250 million in value to the Trust for survivors. Working through the Ad Hoc Committee of Local Councils, local councils have committed to making a substantial contribution in the form of \$500 million of cash and properties. Local councils would also be credited with as much as \$100 million to be paid from a Special Trust created under the BSA's Plan of Reorganization that would be funded with excess payroll cash that would otherwise be contributed to the over-funded defined benefit pension plan, also known as the pension fund, so long as the pension fund is over-funded by at least \$100 million at the time of payment. The establishment and operation of the Special Trust does not impact defined benefit pension plan payments to current or future retirees or the BSA's current pension plan for current or former employees at the Rip Van Winkle Council or any other local council.



We are hopeful that this progress toward a global resolution benefits the entire Scouting community, as this agreement will help local councils like ours make contributions to the Trust without additional draw on their assets, allowing us to move forward with the national organization toward emergence as one Scouting Family.

The Rip Van Winkle Council continues to communicate with national leadership via the Ad Hoc Committee of Local Councils and is collaborating with all parties to the BSA's Chapter 11 case to find a solution that will appropriately fund a Trust to compensate survivors while also ensuring the future of Scouting. We understand from both the national organization and the Ad Hoc Committee that the

proposed agreement will not impact any pension benefits provided to current or former employees of the Rip Van Winkle Council.

We remain as committed as ever to delivering Scouting's unparalleled experiences to young people throughout our communities. We are providing an exciting summer of adventures and character-building activities, including opening Camp Tri-Mount for unit and family camping, preparing unit fundraisers, planning an exciting fall recruitment program to get more kids into the Scouting program and preparing program opportunities for our all our Scouts this fall.

Sincerely,

Be safe! We are all in this together.

See you down the trail...



Dana E. Kuhns
Scout Executive/CEO

UPCOMING COUNCIL CALENDAR

JULY

- 4 US - Independence Day
- 4-9 RVWC - Camp In A Box - Week 1
- 5 RVWC - Service Center and Scout Shop Closed
- 5 US - Independence Day Holiday
- 7 AD - Adirondack District Commissioners meeting
- 7 AD - Adirondack District Committee meeting
- 8 MD - Mohican District Commissioners meeting
- 8 MD - Mohican District Committee meeting
- 9-11 CTM - Camp Closed
- 9-10 OA - Ordeal
- 9-10 OA - Brotherhood
- 11-16 RVWC - Camp In A Box - Week 2
- 12 OA - Lodge meeting
- 16-18 CTM - Camp Closed
- 16-17 OA - Ordeal
- 16-17 OA - Brotherhood
- 17 J - Tisha B' Av begins at sunset
- 18 J - Tisha B' Av
- 18-23 RVWC - Camp In A Box - Week 3
- 19 RVWC - Scouts BSA Leaders Roundtable
- 20 RVWC - Finance Committee
- 22 RVWC - Council Recognition Dinner
- 25-30 RVWC - Camp In A Box - Week 4

- 26 RVWC - Executive Board meeting
- 30-31 OA - Vigil
- 31 CTM - 75th Anniversary Celebration event
- August
- 1 OA - LEC
- 2 CPS - Popcorn Kickoff
- 4 CPS - Popcorn Show and Sell Orders Due
- 11 AD - Algonquin District Commissioners meeting
- 11 AD - Algonquin District Committee meeting
- 12 MD - Mohican District Commissioners meeting
- 12 MD - Mohican District Committee meeting
- 15 RH - RLD
- 17 RVWC - Finance Committee
- 20 CPS - Show and Sell Popcorn Pick-up
- 23 RVWC - Executive Committee meeting

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 | US | - US holiday |

ELISE ANDERSON, COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP

Hello, my name is Elise Anderson and I'm the Vice President of Membership for the Rip Van Winkle Council. I've been a member of the board since 2012.

When my youngest son was a Cub Scout, I was an Assistant Den Leader. Both of my sons, now young men, are adult members of Troop 7. Their involvement in Scouting and seeing how it has guided them as young adults has made me appreciate the Scouting program more than ever.

I own The UPS Store in Kingston, NY and am using my knowledge to help with Camp In A Box. For a second year, I will be working as a Merit Badge Counselor for Salesmanship and Entrepreneurship.

I am so proud of the many leaders, families and youth that worked hard this year. All showed their love of Scouting, making sure that the youth had regular meetings, camping opportunities, and special events like the Klondike Winterfest. This year has



been a challenging one for us all, but we have persevered. I look forward to working with all of you to encourage our youth and their families to join in the fun that Scouting offers.

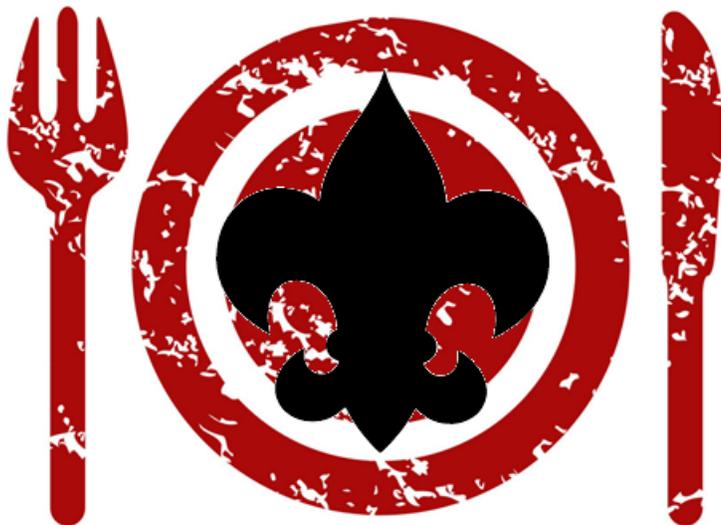
COUNCIL RECOGNITION DINNER

YOU ARE INVITED!

The Rip Van Winkle Council will be hosting the Annual Recognition Dinner on Thursday, July 22. This year's selection for the Silver Beaver will be presented along with other awards and recognition.

Dinner Specifics:

Thursday, July 22
6:00 PM
St. John's Roman Catholic Church
12 Holly Hills Drive
Woodstock, NY



Fees:

\$30.00 – Single
\$45.00 – Couple

Catered by Joe Beez of Kingston

Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

DEADLINE TO RESERVE IS JULY 12, 2021.

Food is not being prepared on site. Walk-ins are NOT permitted.

To register for the dinner, please use the document included in this email.

CUB SCOUT YO-YO PREVIEW ADVENTURE

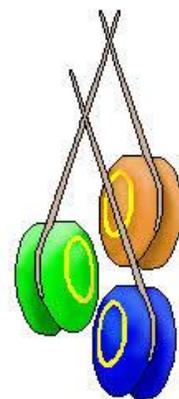
For our units, completing the Cub Scout Yo-Yo Preview Adventure and finding fun recruitment giveaways just got a lot easier. Order customized Yo-Yos, choosing your color and adding a logo, or purchase case packs of 12 Yo-Yos, perfect for making sure a den has everything they need for the Yo-Yo Preview Adventure.

The link to order a customized yo-yo is below:

<https://programs.yo-yo.com/shop-duncan/>

The link to order case packs of 12 yo-yos is below:

<https://programs.yo-yo.com/shop-duncan/>

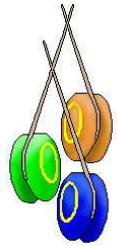


YO-YO TEEN PROGRAM FOR SCOUTS BSA

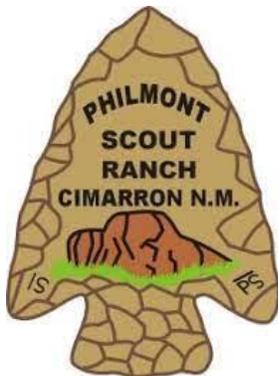
Duncan YO-YO offers the Yo-Yo Teen Program for Scouts BSA to fine-tune their tricks and earn patches long the way.

The link to get more information on the Yo-Yo Teen Program is below:

<https://www.yo-yo.com/scouts>



REGISTRATION FOR 2022 IS OPEN FOR ALL FOUR HIGH ADVENTURE BASES



All 4 High Adventure Bases are #Open4Adventure in 2022!

There is nothing like the life changing experience of attending a National High Adventure Base for our Scouts and Scouters. Your council's older youth units will come home enthusiastic and more connected to Scouting – it truly is the retention arm of the Boy Scouts of America. In addition, planning for a 2022 national high adventure trip could be a wonderful opportunity to reengage Scouts who may have dropped out during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Scouts and Scouters can visit the recently updated "Open 4 Adventure" website and find out how they can get started on planning for an adventure of a lifetime.

Check out <https://scouting.org/outdooradventures/open4adventure> for more information!

USE THE SUMMER OF SERVICE PR PLAYBOOK TO CONNECT WITH LOCAL MEDIA

Summer of Service is an initiative designed to put a focus on what Scouting does best – give back to our communities – so that we can make a positive impact and remind our neighbors of why Scouting matters. Use the recently released **Summer of Service PR Playbook** to help you engage your community and local media in an exciting conversation about Scouting this year.

The Summer of Service PR Playbook (**attached to this email**) contains key messages, sample social media posts, press release templates, tips for connecting with media outlets, and more.



Summer of Service creative materials (logos, fliers, posters, social images, etc.) are available on the BSA Brand Center here:

<https://scouting.webdamdb.com/bp/#/folder/9288229/>.

Visit the Summer of Service site here: www.scouting.org/summerofservice.

The Summer of Service PR Playbook was included with this email or can be downloaded here: file:///C:/Users/dana/Downloads/BSA%20Summer%20of%20Service%20Public%20Relations%20Playbook_BC.pdf

HELP ENSURE SAFE FLAG RETIREMENT

Many modern-day flags are made of combustible materials like nylon and polyester, which are extremely dangerous as they produce hazardous gases and vapors when heated or burned. BSA's Environmental Health and Safety team advocates alternative methods to the traditional burning ceremonies for flag retirement.

Please read this information on alternative flag retirement methods:



<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/09/08/retiring-worn-out-american-flags/>

DETAILS ON THE MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE

Below, see details on the updated membership fees that will take effect August 1, 2021, for the 2021-2022 program year. The information includes FAQs to help you answer questions about the national membership fees.

Over the last year, we have seen the Scouting community come together, even while being physically apart, to bring solutions, relief and comfort to those in need. Scouting continues to be a vital partner for communities across the country.

The value of Scouting is undeniable for those within the program and the greater public, and the Boy Scouts of America is committed to continuing to offer this unmatched opportunity to young people and families nationwide. It is important that we all reach out to Scouting families who might have left the

program due to pandemic reasons and invite them back. We should also be thinking about how to invite new families to join.

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has worked to keep the membership fee as low as possible. Unfortunately, operating costs have continued to rise, and COVID-19 has compounded the need to increase the fee to maintain the program.

To ensure we have the resources to fulfill the promise of Scouting, the updated national membership fee is:

- \$72 for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts participants
- \$45 for Exploring participants.
- \$30 for council-paid memberships
- \$45 for all adult volunteers (includes cost of background check)
- \$75 for a unit charter fee

The membership fees will take effect August 1, 2021, for the 2021-2022 program year.

The one-time \$25 joining fee for *new* program participants in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts is still required; however, there is no joining fee for Exploring participants, participants previously registered in any BSA program, those transferring from one program to another, council-paid memberships, or adult volunteers.

[See the included infographic explaining these updates.](#)

The national membership fee helps pay for the cost of essential services, including program resources, liability insurance for those participating in approved Scouting activities, youth protection and other local council resources.

National BSA will also continue to develop and improve resources that support our volunteers and youth members through online registration, Scoutbook, and national initiatives that bring us all together. Across the country and in each of our communities, we know that Scouting remains one of the most valuable investments we can make in young men and women today so they can become the leaders we will turn to tomorrow.

Our dedicated volunteers, staff, and Scouting families make this possible. Thank you for continuing to support one of the most valuable opportunities available to young people today.

An infographic on this subject was included with this email.

FAQS ON THE ON THE MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE

Q: Why are the fees increasing?

A: The national annual membership fee is increasing by \$6, about 50 cents per month, because the costs associated with Scouting, including the cost of liability insurance, continue to increase and the organization is not able to subsidize the increased costs as it had in the past.

Q: When will this increase take effect?

A: The updated membership fees will take effect August 1, 2021, for new members in the 2021-2022 program year.

Q: Is Scouting still a good value?

A: Absolutely! While most extracurricular activities are seasonal, Scouting is a year-round program that remains one of the most valuable investments we can make to support young men and women today so they can become the leaders we will turn to tomorrow. For most of our

participants, the new national membership fee amounts to \$6.00 a month, which is an enormous value when you consider that many seasonal extracurricular activities often start at \$100 for programs that last a few weeks.

Q: Does the fee increase apply to council-paid memberships?

A: Council-paid memberships will be \$30 annually for youth members in fully funded council-paid units for low-income communities.

Q: What will the money be used for?

A: The annual national membership fee and new-member joining fee help pay for the cost of essential services, including program resources, liability insurance for those participating in approved Scouting activities, youth protection and other local council resources.

Q: Is this increase being implemented to cover the cost of the additional background checks?

A: While the cost of background checks is paid for by the national organization, that is not the driver of this increase.

Q: Will membership fees go toward funding a victims compensation trust?

A: No. The national annual membership fee and the new-member joining fee will help pay for the cost of essential services, including program resources, liability insurance for those participating in approved Scouting activities, youth protection and other local council resources.

Q: What measures has the national organization taken to offset its financial challenges?

A: In addition to ongoing efforts to streamline and simplify the organization, the national organization has taken a number of steps to address its financial challenges, which include multiple rounds of reductions over the past year. These were in addition to ongoing consolidation of departments and elimination of some significant vendors for the most effective utilization of resources in support of Scouting.

Q: In addition to the national membership fee, my council is implementing a council fee. Is that allowed?

A: Starting August 1, 2021, councils can also choose to charge a fee up to, but no more than, the national membership fee – up to \$72 for participants in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts; up to \$45 for participants in Exploring and up to \$45 for adult members. The council fee can include local insurance costs (i.e., accident, property, etc.), as well as the cost to administer unique local programming. Units can continue to assess activity fees.

Q: Will the national membership fee continue to increase?

A: Although no decision about future increases has been made, the cost of operating our organization and services increases every year. Should it be necessary to increase fees in the future, the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America has agreed to evaluate the needs and make such decisions, whenever possible, at the National Annual Meeting so that decisions can be announced with as much lead time as possible to allow councils and units to plan accordingly.

UPDATED YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING MODULES

Over the decades, the Boy Scouts of America has been a leader in developing training and policies designed to keep young people safe. Over time, these policies have become standard with organizations across the nation. True youth protection can be achieved only through the focused commitment of everyone in Scouting. It is the mission of Youth Protection volunteers and professionals to work within the Boy Scouts of America to maintain a culture of Youth Protection awareness and safety at the national, regional, area, council, district, and unit levels.

The Mandatory Online YPT Courses (English version) have been updated to make the following improvements:

- Changes to the certification test to clarify answers.
- New responsive mobile versions that implement streaming video to improve performance across all devices.

The Mandatory Online YPT Courses (Spanish version) have been updated to make the following improvements:

- Changes to the certification test to clarify answers.

2021 CAMP MASTERS POPCORN KICKOFF



Monday, August 2nd

Zoom Meeting

6:45 Gathering

7:00 Kick-off

Please RSVP by July 26th

This meeting is the 1st step to receive the additional 5% bonus!

At the kickoff, we will provide training and information to prepare for the fall popcorn sale.

Printed materials will be available in the office,

Monday – Friday 10am to 6 pm.

This event is open to all unit leaders, unit popcorn chairmen, committee persons and parents.

Please contact the Council Service Center at (845) 339-0846 to let us know who from your unit will be attending by July 26th.

Jackie.Garcia@scouting.org

Topic: **RVWC Popcorn Kickoff**

Time: **Aug 2, 2021 07:00 PM** Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92623152632?pwd=d01tSVJkNmFDTTV4MkRnSiBaRndGQT>

09

Meeting ID: 926 2315 2632
Passcode: 7pQLpE

One tap mobile
+16465588656,,92623152632#,,,,*579192# US (New York)

Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 926 2315 2632
Passcode: 579192

POCORN MATERIALS INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER INCLUDE:

- The 2021 Unit Popcorn Commitment form
- An electronic copy of the 2021 Popcorn brochure

A FEW KERNELS OF WISDOM ABOUT POPCORN:

DID YOU KNOW?

- Scout's online sales at PopcornOrdering.com count towards their prizes!
- Scouts that sell \$400 online earn a \$10 gift card in addition to their base line prize.

\$650 BONUS CLUB

Scouts who sell \$650 in product will receive their choice of:

- 0.5 - Adventure duffle bag with BSA branding
- 0.6 - Foam Strike Switchblade Boomerang
- 0.7 - Lego Friends Olivia's Electric Car

Specific descriptions of popcorn prizes are available at www.kellerprizeprogram.com

AN INTERESTING EXAMPLE:

Cub Scout Charlotte sends her account information to all her Grandparents and Aunts and Uncles across the US. Individually, they go online to PopcornOrdering.com and order \$650 of popcorn to be sent to their homes.

- Cub Scout Charlotte now gets to pick a prize from the Level 7 - \$575 options for prizes.
 - 21 – Swiss Army Knife Classic
 - 22 – Telescope with 40X Magnification
 - 23 – Telescoping Fishing Pole with Reel
 - 24 – Grab Bag F
- Cub Scout Charlotte has qualified for the 650 BONUS CLUB and gets to pick a prize from the following options:
 - 0.5 - Adventure duffle bag with BSA branding
 - 0.6 - Foam Strike Switchblade Boomerang
 - 0.7 - Lego Friends Olivia's Electric Car
- Cub Scout Charlotte has also qualified for the \$400 online sales incentive and gets the following:
 - \$10 Amazon Gift Card

And the best part? Because all of Cub Scout Charlotte's sales were online, she does not have to deliver a single popcorn product and does not have to collect a cent.

HIGH ACHIEVER PRIZES FOR SALES OF \$3000 AND UP

Any Scout selling a combined \$3000 and up will receive in addition to all the other prizes they qualify for EITHER of the following:

NEW Camping Package!

- 2-Person Tent
- 6-in-1 Grilling Multi Tool
- Hanging Hammock
- Camping Bluetooth Speaker w/Power Bank
- Metal Campfire Mug
- Retractable Straw & Utensil Set
- 20 Can Cooler w/Speakers

OR

Visa Debit Card for 5% of total sales.

Example: \$3000 = \$150 debit card. Visa Debit Cards will be rounded to nearest \$10.

19 CUB SCOUT ELECTIVE ADVENTURES TO BE RETIRED EFFECTIVE MAY 31, 2022.

Every year Cub Scout Adventures are reviewed to identify trends and determine interests of our youth, den leaders and Cub Scout families. In our ongoing efforts to keep the Cub Scouting Adventure program relevant to today's families, Cub Scout elective Adventures are reviewed for both content and popularity. The most recent review has identified 19 elective Adventures that do not meet the standards of youth and den leader engagement, with the lowermost being earned by less than 3% of eligible youth. They will be retired effective May 31, 2022. The retiring of these adventures allows Cub Scouting to be more agile as we make continuous improvements to the program. We know that some families may want one last chance to earn these Adventures. Some den leaders may have already made plans for the upcoming program year. To help with transition, these Adventures will be available until the end of 2021-2022 program year. The elective adventures to be retired are:

SKU:	Rank Adventure:	Name:
619922	Tiger	Family Stories
619925	Tiger	Earning Your Stripes
619930	Tiger	Tiger Tales
619931	Tiger	Tiger Theater
619940	Wolf	Collections and Hobbies
619944	Wolf	Grow Something
619947	Wolf	Hometown Heroes
619950	Wolf	Motor Away
619958	Bear	Beat of the Drum
619960	Bear	World of Sound
619963	Bear	Make it Move
619968	Bear	Robotics
619978	Webelos/AOL	Looking Back Looking Forward
619979	Webelos/AOL	Maestro
619997	Webelos/AOL	Project Family

619992	Webelos/AOL	Build My Hero
619989	Webelos/AOL	Adventures in Science
619975	Webelos/AOL	Fix It
619982	Webelos/AOL	Movie Making

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Like all councils across the country, the Rip Van Winkle Council relies on volunteers to deliver the Scouting program to our youth. As a small operation, with a limited budget, the council is also in need of volunteers to assist in the operation of the office and the Scout Store.

If you are retired or looking for something to do to occupy a few hours a week, we may have an opportunity for you. Duties may include answering phones; filing paperwork; organizing delivering; pulling store orders; and more. Duties will be determined based on interest and ability.

Ideally those interested would be scheduled to volunteer on certain days and times each week.



CAMP TRI-MOUNT NEWS

Campmaster Corps: As we open Camp for overnight use, volunteers are needed to join the Camp Tri-Mount Campmaster Corp.

What is a Camp Master? The Campmaster will arrive late Friday afternoon, 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

YES! WE CAN CAMP AT TRI-MOUNT (FINALLY!)

After weeks of phone calls, emails, NYS DOH Bulletins and discussions with Greene County Department of Health, we can camp overnight once again at Tri-Mount. Camp Tri-Mount will be operating as a Campground this summer. Each campsite is considered a separate campground site (think about a state campground) If a Troop, a Pack, or a Scouting family wishes to camp for a night, a weekend, or a few weeks – we can accommodate you. We are reviewing the ongoing guidance provided as we put our plans together.

The Rifle Range – Archery Range – BB Gun Range can be made available. We will be sending out a separate note to Unit Leaders about the process.



**13th Annual
Sporting Clays
for Scouting 2021**

You have enjoyed yourself in the past!

Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

Rip Van Winkle Council's

13th Annual Sporting Clays for Scouting 2021

Friday, September 24, 2021

Orvis Sandanona Shooting Grounds

3047 Sharon Turnpike

Millbrook, NY 12545

Please use the attached brochure to reserve your team's spot today.