



SCOUTING TRAILS

Rip Van Winkle Council, BSA #405

1300 Ulster Avenue, Suite 107

Kingston, NY 12401

October 2021 Newsletter

Rip Van Winkle Council Scouting Community:

Well, it's official...

THE NATIONAL JAMBOREE IS BACK! July 19-28, 2023

Summit Bechtel National Scout Reserve

2550 Jack Furst Drive
Glen Jean, WV 25846

Scouting's flagship event is one-of-a-kind opportunity.

It's a gathering of approximately 40,000 Scouts, leaders, and staff that showcases everything that is great about the BSA and its members.

Why National Jamboree? An Epic Event with 40,000 Friends

Participants in the National Jamboree learn that character is created when you achieve more than you thought possible.

Please visit <https://jamboree.scouting.org/> for the latest information and FAQs.

About the National Jamboree

Traditionally, every four years, Councils put together a Jamboree Contingent, comprised each of 36 youth and 4 adult leaders. The upcoming National Jamboree will include Male Troops, Female Troops, and co-ed Venture Crews.

Scheduled originally for 2021, the National Jamboree was cancelled due to the pandemic.

Besides the Jamboree experience itself, there are many costs that are incurred in preparation for the event. These costs include (but may not be limited to):

- Travel costs to the National Jamboree site.
- Jamboree training, meetings, and other events
- Jamboree gear, including all troop/crew specific gear (flags, unit numerals, water bottles, hats, shirts, jackets, backpack, duffle bag, patches, etc....)
- Jamboree event fee

- Dedicated Scouting professional and support staff to facilitate and assist in a successful Jamboree experience
- Bus transportation to and from Jamboree with dedicated bus drivers
- A tour team to organize and facilitate all touring aspects

Our Council will begin planning and organizing our contingent in the next few months. If you are interested in being part of the planning committee, please let me know.

What excites me the most about the return of the National Jamboree is that it means the Scouting program is moving forward... past the pandemic and past the bankruptcy.

The future of Scouting looks bright!

See you down the trail...

Dana E. Kuhns
Scout Executive/CEO

COUNCIL CALENDAR

October	Subject
1	RVWC - Garlic Festival Set Up
2 to 3	RVWC - Garlic Festival
4	RVWC – Camping and Outdoor Program Committee
6	AD - Algonquin District Commissioners meeting
7	MD - Mohican District Commissioners meeting
9 to 11	NYS - Youth Big Game Hunting Season
9 to 11	CTM - Closed
11	H - Columbus Day
13	AD - Algonquin District Committee meeting
14	MD - Mohican District Committee meeting
14	RVWC – Advancement Committee
15	CPS - Show & Sell Popcorn Money Due
16	CTM - Fall Family Day at Camp Tri-Mount
17	OA - LEC
18	RVWC – Cub Scout Leader & Scouts BSA Leader Roundtable
19	RVWC - Finance Committee
20	CPS - Fall Popcorn Orders Due online by noon
25	RVWC - Executive Committee meeting
30	RVWC - Eagle Scout Workshop

November	Subject
2	Election Day
3	AD - Algonquin District Commissioners meeting
6	RVWC - Scouting for Food - Bag Distribution
7	OA - LEC
10	MD - Mohican District Commissioners meeting
10	MD - Mohican District Committee meeting
11	H - Veterans Day
11	RVWC – Advancement Committee
12	CTS - Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale Orientation
13	RVWC - Scouting for Food - Bag Collection
13	CPS - Popcorn Pick-Up 900 to 1100AM
14	CTS - Christmas Tree Sale set up (Kingston, New Paltz and Catskill)
15	RVWC – Cub Scout Leader & Scouts BSA Leader Roundtable
16	RVWC - Service Center and Scout Shop Closes at 300PM
16	RVWC – Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner and Auction
20	CTM - Camp Tri-Mount Closed - NYS Hunting Season
20	CTS - Christmas Tree Delivery
22	CPS - Fall Popcorn Money due
22	RVWC - Executive Board meeting
24	RVWC - Service Center and Scout Shop Closes at 400PM
25	RVWC - Service Center and Scout Shop Closed
25	US - Thanksgiving Day
26	RVWC - Service Center and Scout Shop Closed
26	H - Thanksgiving Holiday
26	CTS - Trees for Tri-Mount
28	J - Channukah begins at sunset
29	J - Channukah

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

SCOUTING SAFELY UPDATE: AGE-APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

The Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities have received an update and now include Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Camping. That change will align with the upcoming update to the Guide to Safe Scouting—occurring Fall 2021.

Age- and rank-appropriate guidelines have been developed based on many factors. Anyone planning activities outside of program materials or handbooks should ask this question: Is the activity appropriate for the age and for Scouting? Not every activity needs to be conducted.



Please review the Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities found attached to this email or here:

<file:///C:/Users/dana/Downloads/680-685.pdf>

MIKE HARRISON, COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAM

Hello, I am Michael Harrison VP of Program for the Council as well as one of the three Eagle Coordinators. I have been doing both positions for about 7 years.

I have been in Scouting for over 30 years holding many positions. I was in Scouts as a youth having a great time. When children came around, I was involved in Cub Scouts, Pack 17 Tillson as a Den Leader then Cubmaster. As time went on, I moved up to Boy Scouts Troop 17 Tillson, where I was an Assistant Scoutmaster then Scoutmaster now an assistant again still enjoying working with the Scouts. I was District Roundtable Commissioner and helped in many areas in the council. As Eagle Coordinator I work with Scouts earning the Eagle Rank. I received the Silver Beaver Award, the James E West Award and am a Vigil member of the Order of the Arrow.



My wife Pat and I have lived in the Kingston area all our married lives. We have 2 sons who are both Eagle Scouts. They both work as aircraft mechanics. I retired in 2013, with 38 years of service, from the New York Air National Guard holding the rank of Chief Master Sergeant, E-9, Vehicle Maintenance Superintendent.

THE BSA HAS A NEW SITE FOR RECRUITING RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

It's time to help families discover Scouting, and this new landing page has resources to share with anyone who will be recruiting. The page offers easy access to recruitment marketing materials, social planning tools, details, and registration information for upcoming webinars, and much more

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

THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS RELATIONSHIPS COMMITTEE IS PROMOTING THESE UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR UNITS AND VOLUNTEERS

Virtual Interfaith 5k Program - This is the second annual Virtual Interfaith 5k Program hosted by the National Religious Relationships Committee (NRRC). This event started as a method for getting families physically active during the fall COVID-19 shutdown last year. Many BSA advancement requirements have a physical fitness requirement for which a 5k either qualifies as completion or starts participants on tracking their progress toward a longer distance. The Virtual 5k is combined with an interfaith event through Zoom, bringing together six faith groups to talk about a given theme. This year's event is happening on October 10th (3:30 - 8:30PM) with a "Faith is Believing" theme. See below for additional details on the Virtual Interfaith 5K and how to register.

Get 5k Details:

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/se-packet/2021-09-07/Virtual-5k-Event-Information-for-Publicity.docx>

Virtual Protestant Religious Emblems Classes - The Protestant members of the NRRC are coming together to support virtual nationwide classes for the Protestant Religious Emblems programs offered through P.R.A.Y. Publications. The five levels of emblems will each have space for 90 students of the correct grade levels. Each class varies in length and number of sessions to complete the program. See below for details on class topics, dates, and registration information.

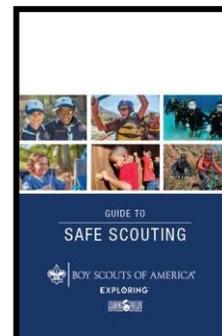
Get Emblems Classes Details:

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/se-packet/2021-09-07/Virtual-P.R.A.Y-Awards-Event-Information-for-Publicity.docx>

UPCOMING UPDATES TO THE GUIDE TO SAFE SCOUTING

An update to the Guide to Safe Scouting is coming Fall 2021. The following topics are expected to be part of the update:

- Aquatic Policy: Update Scuba Policy, Prohibiting Full Face Snorkels
- BSA'S Commitment to Safety: Update to Commitment of Safety
- Camping Policy: Update in Format/Delivery
- Immunization Policy: Update to Requirements (Effective 6/1/2022)
- The Safe Checklist: Transition from the Sweet 16 Of BSA Safety
- Transportation Policy: Update in Format/Delivery



UPDATED COMMISSIONER TRAINING AVAILABLE ONLINE

Please inform Commissioners that new position-specific basic training is now available online through the BSA Learn Center with new learning plans and modules for Unit, Roundtable, District, and Council Commissioners. These modules replace the previous online training modules.

New Instructor-led materials are also available and are located on the basic training section of the Commissioner Development page here:

<https://www.scouting.org/commissioners/training/commissioner-basic-training/>



Commissioners who may have been taking the previous online courses and did not complete them will need to start again with the new material.

NEW INTERNET RECHARTERING PLATFORM

Internet Recharter 2.0 is scheduled to release on October 15th for all units to submit their renewals online. We have created an FAQ (attached), along with an Internet Recharter User Guide (attached), to give you the opportunity to review the new platform and provide the necessary tools to your council staff when supporting the volunteers with submitting their Internet Charter Renewal. An instructional video walking the viewer through each step of the new Internet Recharter 2.0 experience will be coming soon.

**SOMETHING
DIFFERENT
THIS YEAR**

On September 22, 2021, a Sandbox environment will be opened for units to begin training on the new system. This sandbox, available at <https://advancementspp.scouting.org>, will allow the unit to "test" the recharter process before actually committing the actions permanently in the new recharter system beginning on October 15, 2021. To access, units will enter their same usernames they would normally use to access Scoutbook.com or My.Scouting, except a new, generic password will be used to access the sandbox system. That password will be circulated once the sandbox environment is ready.

In 2021, not every unit in the Council will be expected to use the new online method. We will be targeting some units to use it and be able to relate their experience with it to other units. This is the method of rechartering that we will begin transitioning to for the future.

UNITS ARE TO PLEASE FOLLOW UP ON YOUR BEASCOUT.ORG LEADS TO HELP FAMILIES FIND A SCOUT UNIT TO JOIN

With thousands of families searching for a unit for their children to join via BeAScout.org, it is critical to remind everyone to update unit pins and follow up quickly on leads and applications in the system. Help these families join Scouting today!

<https://www.scouting.org/resources/online-registration/>

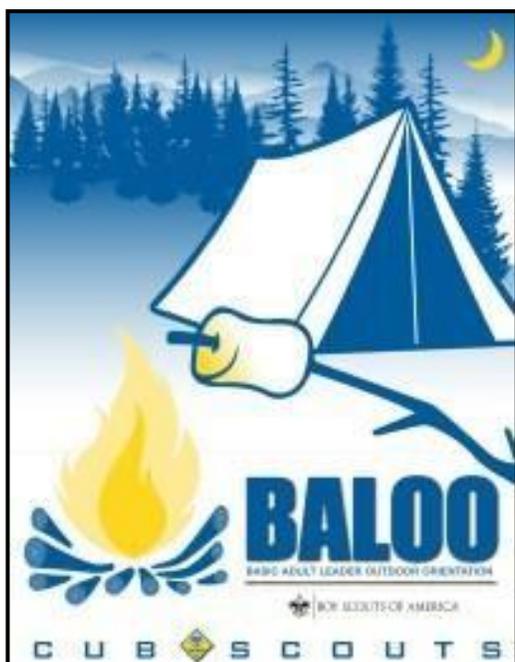


OK CUB SCOUTS – WHO IS READY TO GO CAMPING?!

As the leaves in most of the country start to turn colors, can Fall be very far behind? Your pack should have an annual plan framed, including Blue and Gold Dinners, Rain gutter Regattas, Pinewood Derbies, Holiday parties, carnivals, and fun Pack outings. Don't forget to include a couple of Pack Overnights!

Pack overnights can be an exciting way to engage new families in our program! The chance to go camping continues to be the number one reason why youth join Cub Scouts!

But we also need to consider that Pack Overnights will often be a Cub Scout family's first introduction to camping outdoors, and it's very important that your Pack does it right! The first step on that path is to have several of your Pack leadership team, and a couple of parents, attend BALOO training in your Council or District.



BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation) training is an overnight experience that will teach you all the skills you need to help your scouts feel at home in the outdoors. It will also provide you with an outdoor learning experience, as you will be participating in meal prep, campsite prep, and sleeping in the outdoors. What better way to learn about camping than to go camping?

BALOO is the Cub Scout leader training required for any Cub Scout den or pack outdoor event, including pack camping overnights and Webelos den overnights. This training should be presented by council or district level training teams as needed. Councils may decide to require periodic refreshers based on local situations.

BALOO training is comprised of two components—an online component and a practical, hands-on component. Both components must be completed to qualify as a "TRAINED" Cub Scout outdoor leader. The online component must be completed prior to the practical component. The online training

contains introductory and basic information that will be built upon during the practical training.

The Outdoors are integral to Cub Scouting! And by participating in BALOO training, adult leaders will know how to conduct an outdoor event that will be fun for Cub Scouts and their families. BALOO will provide you with all that information, plus a great learning experience at a camp near you!

Here's a list of some of the information covered during BALOO:

GPS	Aq"atics	Gcaí Sclecc'io→	Hiki→ig
Nat"íc	O"t'ooó Et'kics	Cooki→ig	Sa→it'at'io→
Iísf' Aid	K→irc Sarct'Q	Ca½psit'c Sclecc'io→	Láigc Gíop Ga½cs
Meal Planning	Duty to God	Stoves & Lanterns	Ceremonies
Knots	Program Planning		

And much, much more!

Check your calendars or ask your local district executive when the next BALOO training is scheduled, and then get your pack's leaders registered!! You won't regret it!!

The Cub Scout Adventure Program is very easily adapted to the outdoors. In addition to the Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award, Cub Scouts can also earn these Outdoor-oriented adventures:

Lion - Lion Adventure

Tiger - My Tiger Jungle, Tigers in the Wild, Floats & Boats

Wolf - Call of the Wild, Paws on the Path, Spirit of the Water

Bear - Bear Claws, Bear Necessities, Furs, Feathers & Ferns, A Bear Goes Fishing, Salmon Run

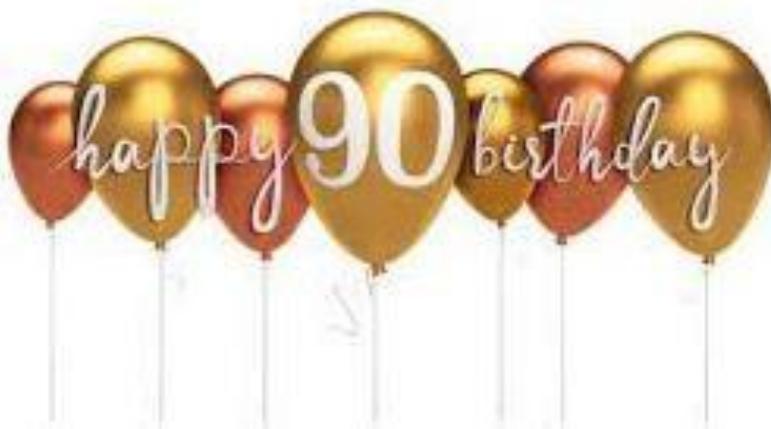
Webelos /AOL required - Cast Iron Chef, Webelos Walkabout, Outdoor Adventurer

ACHIEVING A MILESTONE

It is with great joy and excitement that we recognize Harold J. Harrison on achieving his 90th birthday later this month.

Harold is a long-time Scouter and is currently serving as the Chartered Organization Representative for Pack 103 at St. James United Methodist Church in Kingston.

When you next see Harold, please give him a warm birthday greeting.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAROLD HARRISON!

MANY PEOPLE STILL DON'T KNOW GIRLS ARE WELCOME IN CUB SCOUTS, SHARE THIS VIDEO AND HELP TO SPREAD THE WORD

Even though it's common knowledge in our BSA community, many families remain unaware that girls can join Cub Scouts. Encourage everyone to share this great YouTube video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6djc7YZGE8>) to spread the news and invite more families to experience Scouting.



BSA Brand Center features the a 30-second version (<https://scouting.webdamdb.com/bp/#/folder/4627825/80197608>) as well as a longer version (<https://scouting.webdamdb.com/bp/#/folder/4627825/79932856>) – both for download.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

When you place an order at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate to a charity of your choice.



You can set it up so that every time you order from Amazon, a percentage of the total amount ordered will be given to the Rip Van Winkle Council, Boy Scouts of America.

RECRUITING

We have plenty of flyers available and ideas for social media unit promotion. We have had a few Cub Scout Packs ask for these materials and they have had great success. What can we help you with?? Elise Anderson, Vice President of Membership is full of ideas and support – reach out to Elise at eja051053@yahoo.com.

ON BEHALF OF THE ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Well, it is that time of the year for our Eagle workshop. It will be an in person meeting on Saturday, October 30, 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.



All are to pre-register for the session to allow the Council to prepare the appropriate numbers of materials for the session. Pre-register by sending an email to dana.kuhns@scouting.org.

Mike Harrison
Eagle Scout Coordinator

Specifics:

Eagle Scout Workshop

Saturday, October 30, 2021

9:00AM to 12:00PM

St. Mary of the Snow Parish Hall

30 Cedar Street

Saugerties, NY

All are to pre-register by sending an email to dana.kuhns@scouting.org.

COUNCIL LEADER'S ROUNDTABLE – OCTOBER 18TH

We had a great turnout for our first in-person Leaders Roundtable in many months. Thank you for attending. We are going to have a combination of Virtual and In-Person Roundtables in the next several months. Our next in-person Roundtable will be December 13th. We are looking forward to our Holiday Party. Stay tuned for more information in the next newsletter.



The October Roundtable will be virtual using the g-suites that we established with our 2021 Camp in A Box Program. By using g-suites we will be able to have a general session to start off – and then break out into Scouts BSA and Cub Scout Specific Programs. We will be sending out information on how to log on to the Roundtable on October 14th – but please keep the October 18th date open.

ORDER OF THE ARROW NEWS

Congratulations to Judah Copeman (T7) on his election to Chief of the Half Moon Lodge #28 at the Fall Fellowship weekend. Also, congrats to Thomas Rohan (T42) on his election as Vice-Chief of Program and Andrew King (T42) on his election to Vice-Chief of Service.

Congratulations also go to Erwin Lampman, Daniel Brucker, Alex Wells, Lenny Casabura and Billy Sherburne for the selection to receive the Vigil Honor. Next time you see them ask them to pronounce the Lenni Lenape names they received.

The next Lodge Executive Committee meeting is October 17th.



FALL FAMILY FUN DAY

What's happening? Smokey the Bear will be visiting in the morning, fishing at the lake, BB guns, Rock throwing, Crafts, Face painting, Pumpkin painting, Bouldering wall, Haunted barn, Archery, Live demos, and a Hayride to get around Camp. We will also be doing bottle rockets!! Bring your own 2-liter bottle and we will help you get it done.

Hot dogs, chips and water will be available for lunch – or you can bring a picnic lunch.

How much does this cost? Up until October 8th the Registration Fee is \$5.00 per person (Cub Scout, siblings & parents) children under 5 are free. After October 8th, the fee is \$8.00. Some of the activities may require a ticket or 2 to cover additional costs to participate. Tickets will be \$0.50 each or 20 for \$8.00.



New Cub Scouts (joining between August 1st and the event) and prospective members are free!!

How do you sign up? The registration portal for Fall Family Day will open on the Council webpage (rvwbsa.org/FallFamilyDay) September 7th (day after Labor Day). All registrations can be done online.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD UPDATE!!

Scouting For Food is happening, but like everything else in the past two years, we have had to make some changes. With the ongoing pandemic, we all know the need for help is greater than ever. We are looking for all Units in the Council to participate in whatever way they feel safe in doing so.



Our number one concern as a Council is that Scouts and Scouters are safe, so here are the highlights:

- We will **NOT** be collecting the food at UPS in Kingston.
- Units will put bags out on November 6th and pickup on November 13th. Units are still asked to report item counts to Council Service Center.
- **Bags will be available for Units to pick-up at the Council Office starting on October 11.**
 - **A northern / Mohican District bag distribution will occur Monday, October 11th from 6:45 – 8:00PM at the West Bridge Street Dunkin Donuts in Catskill.**
 - **A southern / Algonquin District bag distribution will occur Tuesday, October 12th from 6:45 – 8:00PM at the Main Street Dunkin Donuts in New Paltz.**

Please fill out your commitment form (attached to this email) and bring it with you when you pick up your bags.

- Units that went to the UPS Center in Kingston, please note on the commitment form which food pantry you will be supplying. For those with existing habitual relationships, please continue to continue to service that entity.
- We understand that the areas Units are responsible for covering can be large and that it may be impossible for you to cover it all with the number of Scouts you have. What we are asking is that you cover as much as possible, making sure to cover the sections that you would normally see the most return from. If you notice your own neighborhood did not get bags even though it is not assigned to you, distributing, and collecting bags there will be most appreciated.

- If you would like to get the word out and set up a time on the 13th to have a central collection site for your community to drop off food, such as your meeting location, that is another idea. We are looking for your help and support in this venture any way you can.
- We also have limited supply of collection boxes, if anyone has a business that is willing to support the cause, please contact the Council Service Center to obtain these and collect them for distribution the same.

This year's Scouting for Food campaign has been sponsored by



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH SALE

It's that time of the year again!! Time to plan for our "Trees for Tri-Mount" Christmas Tree and Christmas Wreath Sale. To have a successful sale we need your help prepping for the sale and helping to sell the Trees and Wreaths. We will be selling at the same locations:

- the old Burlington Coat Factory in Kingston
- Rite-Aid Plaza in New Paltz
- near Dunkin' Donuts in Catskill

If you can help with set-up or selling the trees – please reach out to Frank Tietjen at 845-796-6178 or ftietjen@hvc.rr.com

Important dates:

- Setting up the Tree Stand in New Paltz, 11/14
- Setting up the Tree Stand in Catskill, 11/14
- Setting up the Tree Stand in Kingston, 11/14
- Tree Delivery in Kingston – week of November 11/20

We will be having zoom meeting in October to review how the sale is to be operated.

Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale Orientation

October 12 at 700PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89317046487?pwd=RW5xQitwVnFhSmtYTzhUTkE1dWp3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 893 1704 6487

Passcode: 0qnrck

One tap mobile



+16465588656,,89317046487#,,,,*965379# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

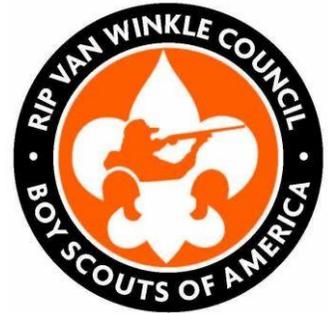
Meeting ID: 893 1704 6487

Passcode: 965379

2021 SPORTING CLAYS EVENT HELD

The sun was bright, and the sky was blue.... finally. It was a GREAT day to be outside. Our event chair, Dave Gagnon, could not have ordered a better day.

The 2021 Sporting Clays for Scouting event was held on held Friday, September 24th at the prestigious Orvis Sandanona Shooting Grounds in Millbrook, NY. This exciting fundraising event supports the area youth active in Scouting programs that directly benefit them and the citizens of their communities in Ulster and Greene County.



Sporting clays has been described as “golf with a shotgun,” where clay targets are thrown in a variety of trajectories, speeds, and elevations. Participants do *not* have to be experienced shooters or even own a shotgun to participate in this event- it is for shooters and non-shooters alike! Orvis instructors were present at every station to assist shooters of all skill levels.

Dave Gagnon and all the members of the organizing committee did an OUTSTANDING job! A big **THANK YOU!** to all involved.

Below is a listing of our Sporting Clay Sponsors:

SPONSORS	SPONSORSHIP
Maurice Tessier and UBS Financial Services	Tournament Sponsor
Mainetti & Mainetti PC	Breakfast Sponsor
A Colarusso & Son Inc	Breakfast Sponsor
Gagnon Associates	Lunch Sponsor
Rondout Savings Bank	Lunch Sponsor
Ulster Savings Bank	Prize Sponsor
Storage 28 LLC	Prize Sponsor
The UPS Store	Bucket Drop Sponsor
Arold Construction Co Inc	Station Sponsor
Arold Construction Co Inc	Station Sponsor
Firmbach & Firmbach CPA's	Station Sponsor
Firmbach & Firmbach CPA's	Station Sponsor
Gagnon Associates	Station Sponsor
Graff Law LLC	Station Sponsor
Meredith Cavanaugh	Station Sponsor
Woodhouse Wealth Management	Station Sponsor

Below is a listing our Sporting Clay Teams:

Sporting Clay Teams
A. Colarusso & Son, Inc.
Bank of Greene County
Central Hudson / Team Kiszkiel
Gagnon and Associates
Graff Law
Herzog's / KGN Plaza
Hudson Valley Financial Associates
Jeff Lowe Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning / New Paltz Equipment Rental
Liberty Security Services
Mainetti & Mainetti. PC
RYCOR Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning
Sawyer Savings Bank
Sickler, Torcia, Allen and Churchill CPAs / Tri-State Hardwoods, Ltd.
Kyle Stellar Law
Sutton Electric, Plumbing and Heating
Team Cavanaugh
Team Darius Oggioni
Team Masseur/Tong
Team Walker
Timely Signs - 1 & 2
Ulster Savings Bank
Woodhouse Wealth Management

INSURANCE COVERAGES AVAILABLE

Consider the possibility that an accident could occur involving your unit. Take proper steps in advance, not only to assess the risks and eliminate potential hazards but also to fully protect yourself and others responsible for the outing. An adequate emergency fund will cover minor emergencies.

Comprehensive General Liability Insurance

This coverage provides primary general liability coverage for registered volunteer Scouters with respect to claims arising out of an official Scouting activity, which is defined in the insurance policy as consistent with the values, Charter and Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, operations manuals, and applicable literature of the Boy Scouts of America. This coverage responds to allegations of negligent actions by third parties that result in personal injury or property damage claims that are made and provides protection for Scouting units and chartered organizations on a primary basis.

The BSA general liability insurance program provides volunteers and chartered organizations additional excess coverage for automobiles above a local council's automobile liability policy or a volunteer's or chartered organization's watercraft liability policy. The owner's vehicle or watercraft liability insurance is primary. The excess insurance, whether it is the local council auto or BSA general liability, is available only while the vehicle or watercraft is in the actual use of a Scouting unit and being used during an official Scouting activity.

The insurance provided to unregistered Scouting volunteers through the general liability insurance program is excess over any other insurance the volunteer might have to his or her benefit, usually a homeowners, personal liability, vehicle, or watercraft policy.

The general liability policy does not provide indemnification or defense coverage to those individuals who commit intentional and/or criminal acts. The Boy Scouts of America does not have an insurance policy that provides defense for situations involving allegations of intentional and/or criminal acts.

Scouting youth are not insured under the general liability policy.

Automobile Liability Insurance

All vehicles whether owned, non-owned, hired, or leased MUST be covered by a liability insurance policy. The amount of this coverage must meet or exceed the insurance requirement of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. (It is recommended, however, that coverage limits are at least \$100,000 combined single limit.) Any vehicle carrying 10 or more passengers should have limits of \$1 million single limit. All vehicles used in travel outside the United States must carry a liability insurance policy that complies with or exceeds the requirements of that country.

Note: The use of 15-passenger vans manufactured before 2005 is prohibited.

Chartered Organizations for Scouting Units

The general liability policy provides primary liability insurance coverage for all chartered organizations on file with the BSA for liability arising out of their chartering a traditional Scouting unit. Automobile and watercraft liability coverage is provided on a secondary or excess basis. All vehicles used in Scouting activities must be covered by automobile liability insurance with limits that meet or exceed the requirements of the state in which the vehicle is licensed. All watercraft used in Scouting must be insured by the owner for liability exposures. The amount of coverage is determined by the size and usage of the boat; \$1 million is recommended.

Chartered organizations do not need a certificate of insurance. The chartered organization endorsement is a part of the insurance policy contract and is enforceable under the policy contract.

Accident and Sickness Coverage

(Optional coverage for council or units)

Accident and sickness insurance (also known as accident and health insurance) coverage for Scouts and Scouters furnishes medical reimbursement in case of death, accident, or sickness within the policy amounts. These plans and policies are excess of all other available sources of medical insurance or other health-care benefits. In the event there is no other primary insurance or health-care plan, these policies generally pay as primary coverage, subject to the plan limits and terms.

All registered youth and seasonal staff are eligible, as well as registered leaders and volunteer leaders. The coverage provided has maximum limits it pays and a maximum benefit period, usually 52 weeks from the date of the incident. The plans do not "take care of everything." Claims should be filed with the accident and sickness carrier as soon as possible along with any other source of medical insurance or other health care benefits.

Scouts and guests who are being encouraged to become registered Scouts and volunteers are automatically insured while in attendance at a scheduled activity. Other guests are not covered. Each council also will be able to elect to cover family members of registered Scouts while these family members attend BSA-sponsored events. This is optional coverage.

Accident and sickness plans and insurance companies have specific procedures for processing claims. Volunteers need to check with their local council to verify which plan/policy their council provides or is available.

Coverage for Non-Owned Boats Used in Scouting Activities

Only general liability insurance coverage is available; no hull damage insurance is provided.

Owners (chartered organizations or others) must carry their own liability coverage. Boats under 26 feet and donated for use in Scouting activities need to have at least \$300,000 in coverage. Boats 26 feet and over should have \$500,000 in coverage. Risk Management will provide certificates of insurance up to \$2 million. The BSA's coverage is excess of the liability coverage (\$300,000 or \$500,000) carried by the owner.

The following are examples of watercraft/boats that need not be insured by the chartered organization and others if they are to be used in an official Scouting activity: canoes, kayaks, rafts, catamarans, and sailboats (under 26 feet). However, if these watercrafts are to be used for non-Scouting activities, the chartered organization or others should provide liability insurance as there is no liability coverage for chartered organizations or others for non-Scouting activities.

Watercraft owned by local councils, chartered organizations, and others should be licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard, and the operator should be licensed if required.

Prohibited Activities

The Boy Scouts of America's general liability policy provides coverage for a bodily injury or property damage claim that is made and arises out of an official Scouting activity. The Guide to Safe Scouting contains a listing of prohibited activities. Prohibited activities are not considered official Scouting activities.

Volunteers (registered and unregistered), units, chartered organizations, and local councils are jeopardizing insurance coverage for themselves and their organization by engaging in prohibited activities.

Please, do not put yourself at risk!

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