



SCOUTING TRAILS

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

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

STATE OF THE COUNCIL GATHERING

Historically, a gathering is held in January of every year to report to the unit volunteers on the status of the council. This year, that meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 25** at 630PM

Among the key topics of discussion for the evening will be:

- The national bankruptcy
- Camp Tri-Mount 2023
- FairShare 2023

I would urge each of you to join in this Zoom meeting and hear the latest from the key leaders of the council. The link to the zoom meeting can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

I believe 2022 was a better year for all of us, both individually and as Council. While happening slowly, we are beginning to see our recovery from the multiple impacts of COVID-19. Our membership is down, but our units have returned to a routine of weekly meetings and activities, weekend campouts and attending summer camp. We have learned how to deal with COVID-19. What to watch for, and how to respond.

With every challenge that took place last year, there were still good things that happened. Good things like:

- A total of nearly twenty Scouts BSA earned the rank of Eagle Scout
- Council volunteers continued to organize and run in-person events and training courses to insure we are offering a quality program to our Scouts.
- Council volunteers continued to organize and run events recognizing Eagle Scouts, community leaders and community organizations while successfully raising much needed funds to support the council's operations.

Let's all be hopeful 2023 turns out to be a much better year for the Scouting program than the past few years.

Be safe! We are all in this together.

See you down the trail...

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dana E. Kuhns".

Dana E. Kuhns
Scout Executive/CEO

January**2023****Subject**

- 9 RVWC – Cub Scout Leader & Scouts BSA Leader Roundtable
- 11 CANDY SALE DELIVERY
- 12 RVWC – Advancement Committee
- 12 CCS-CANDY SALE PICKUP 1000 TO 500
- 13 CCS-CANDY SALE PICKUP 1000 TO 500
- 14 OA-LODGE BANQUET
- 16 ML King Holiday
- 16 RVWC - Service Center and Scout Shop Closed
- 17 RVWC - Finance Committee
- 19 RVWC - Commissioner Huddle
- 21 RVWC-CUB SCOUT WINTERFEST
- 21 RVWC-SBSA KLONDIKE DERBY
- 24 RVWC-STAFF PLANNING CONFERENCE
- 24 RVWC - Service Center and Scout Shop Closed
- 25 RVWC - STATE OF THE COUNCIL
- 26 RVWC – EXECUTIVE BOARD
- 31 RVWC - Completed Recharter materials due

February**Subject**

- 2 RVWC – Training Committee
- 3 J-SCOUT SABBAT BEGINS AT SUNSET
- 4 J-SCOUT SABBAT
- 5 OA - Lodge Executive Committee (LEC)
- 5 C-SCOUT SUNDAY
- 6 RVWC – Camping and Outdoor Program Committee
- 6 RVWC - 50% OF CANDY PAYMENT DUE
- 8 NST10 Membership Meeting
- 9 RVWC – Advancement Committee
- 12 OA - Lodge Meeting
- 12 C-SCOUT SUNDAY (UMC)
- 12 CTAA-CAMP TRI-MOUNT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WINTER MEETING
- 13 RVWC – Cub Scout Leader & Scouts BSA Leader Roundtable
- 14 Valentine’s Day
- 16 RVWC - Commissioner Huddle
- 20 Presidents Day
- 20 RVWC - Service Center and Scout Shop Closed
- 21 RVWC - Finance Committee
- 23 RVWC - Executive Committee meeting
- 25 RVWC-EAGLE SCOUT WORKSHOP

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

COUNCIL LEADER'S ROUNDTABLE – JANUARY 9TH

Our next Leader Roundtable will be Monday, January 9th at 700PM on Zoom. This meeting is a week early due to the ML King holiday on January 16.



Topic: **RVWC Leader Roundtable**

Time: **Jan 9, 2023, 07:00 PM** Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89057893143?pwd=Q2xvR0lyZUFvWm9nbHhEMFNiNG1oUT09>

Meeting ID: 890 5789 3143

Passcode: 7A68K5

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,89057893143#,,,,*656380# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 890 5789 3143

Passcode: 656380

STATE OF THE COUNCIL LINK

Be sure to join us for our upcoming State of the Council meeting

Topic: STATE OF THE COUNCIL

Time: Jan 25, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83430483112?pwd=bnxQ3E3L29lNVp6YlUvMFVkb0xEQT09>

Meeting ID: 834 3048 3112

Passcode: dQkr1c

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,83430483112#,,,,*193373# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

Meeting ID: 834 3048 3112

Passcode: 193373

NEW VICE-PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP

Mike Bakatsias, Troop 70
Highland, New York

Mike joined the Rip Van Winkle Council executive committee earlier this year in effort to assist in membership & recruitment. He works with the Marlboro School District as Assistant Superintendent and also serves on the school board of Highland Schools. With over twelve years as a Scouting leader and parent in a very successful program, Mike knows that partnering with local schools can reap great rewards for Packs and Troops

“Scouting compliments our school program very well. Teaching kids respect for their environment, being active in the outdoors and community are healthy additions to school today.”



RIP VAN WINKLE MEMBERSHIP AND RECRUITMENT

Rip Van Winkle lags in Recruitment compared to other Councils

The Rip Van Winkle Council is down in membership as compared to 2021 by 66 members in the most recent numbers. All units should adopt an *immediate goal* of adding +5 members this Winter. I offer some suggestions later in this article.

Council	12/27/2022	12/31/2021	# Needed to Break Even
Twin Rivers	3939	3912	-27
Baden Powell	1650	1645	-5
Longhouse	2144	2064	-80
Five Rivers	1297	1401	104
Iroquois Trails	1261	1310	49
Greater Niagara Frontier	3336	3265	-71
Allegheny Highlands	1527	1396	-131
Theodore Roosevelt	5558	5330	-228
Greater Hudson Valley	7602	7985	383
Seneca Waterways	5958	5926	-32
Leatherstocking	1697	1473	-224
Suffolk County	6508	6808	304
Rip Van Winkle	464	530	66
Greater New York	7935	6999	-936
NATIONAL SERVICE TERRITORY #10	50872	50044	-828

Plus 5 – Adding Members Now

Units lagging in recruitment numbers of opportunities can try one of the following suggestions this Winter:

Schedule some “Open” events where Scouts can invite friends and families in to experience Scouting. One example could be Pine Wood Derby. Everyone knows how exciting the Derbies are, allowing non-members the chance to experience the event will offer immediate recruitment opportunities.

Another example could be to host a winter fest or sleigh riding outing complete with hot chocolate. Inviting friends and families to an outdoor winter outing and sharing some hot cocoa or other winter event can offer some opportunities to recruit new scouts and build relationships.

A One-page flyer is all that is needed for parents; too much information is just that, too much. Create a one-page flyer that includes the following:

- Highlights your Scouting program,
- Calendar of events,
- Cost information
- Contact information
- Social Media links

Strategies that Help

FOCUS ON A HEALTHY PACK. It’s no mystery that healthy Pack numbers yield and support healthy Troop membership. So one strategy is that Troops and Packs “partner” in recruitment activities focusing on recruitment at lower grade levels.

PARTNER WITH YOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Schools offer a variety of resources to Packs such as a place for Dens and Packs to meet and hold events while providing basic services such as restrooms and shelter from weather.

Partnering with your elementary school can have positive impact on your Pack, however there are some do and don’ts when it comes to working with your local school.

The goal of partnering with your school is to allow the Pack to share **program** information with students not directly recruit. Some schools, allow the Scouts to hand out flyers to classes or have a “Program” table at an Open House. These are excellent opportunities to share your Scouting program information but not to “sign up” a child unless an adult asks to enroll. Schools like to offer opportunities but also like to stay “neutral” to outside groups. So rather than calling it a “Recruitment” table, refer to it as a “Program” table to share information.

Other strategies to partner with your school include getting some leaders or parents to be on the PTA or offer to volunteer when the Principal needs assistance.

Use the Tools

1. Use Social Media to post the <https://beascout.scouting.org/> link
2. BSA offers excellent tools <https://www.scouting.org/recruitment/>

All,

I was reviewing the BSA's Guide to Safe Scouting and found the following information that I feel needs to be shared with you. It is especially pertinent as we get deeper into the winter months, and we begin to consider more outdoor activities for our Scouts.

From the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.

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Winter Sports Safety

Beyond camping, a number of cold-weather activities present challenges to the youth and leader, such as cross-country skiing, ice skating, sledding, ice fishing, and snowshoeing. Essential ingredients for fun include skill training and an awareness of the hazards unique to these activities. Snow conditions, hazardous terrain, special clothing needs, and emergency survival are important issues for a safe and successful experience.

Be sure your winter outdoor activities always follow these guidelines:

1. All winter activities must be supervised by mature and conscientious adults (at least one of whom must be age 21 or older) who understand and knowingly accept responsibility for the well-being and safety of the youth in their care, who are experienced and qualified in the particular skills and equipment involved in the activity, and who are committed to compliance with the seven points of BSA Winter Sports Safety. Direct supervision should be maintained at all times by two or more adults when youth are in the field. The appropriate number of supervisors will increase depending on the number of participants, the type of activity, and environmental conditions.
2. Winter sports activities embody intrinsic hazards that vary from sport to sport. Participants should be aware of the potential hazards of any winter sport before engaging in it. Leaders should emphasize preventing accidents through adherence to safety measures and proper technique.
3. Appropriate personal protective equipment is required for all activities. This includes the recommended use of helmets for all participants engaged in winter sports, such as sledding and riding other sliding devices. The use of helmets is required for the following activities: downhill skiing, snowboarding.
4. Winter sports activities often place greater demands on a participant's cardiopulmonary system, and people with underlying medical conditions (especially if the heart or lungs are involved) should not participate without medical consultation and direction. For participants without underlying medical conditions, the annual health history and physical examination by a licensed health-care practitioner every year is sufficient. The adult leader should be familiar with the physical circumstances of each youth participant and make appropriate adjustments to the activity or provide protection as warranted by individual health or physical conditions. Adults participating in strenuous outdoor winter activity should have an annual physical examination. It is recommended that the medical assessment be performed by a licensed health-care practitioner knowledgeable of the sport and the particular physical demands the activity will place on the individual.
5. For winter sports such as skiing, snowboarding, etc., that utilize specialized equipment, it is essential that all equipment fit and function properly.

6. When youth are engaging in downhill activities such as sledding or tobogganing, minimize the likelihood of collision with immobile obstacles. Use only designated areas where rocks, tree stumps, and other potential obstacles have been identified and marked, cleared away, shielded, or buffered in some way.
7. All participants should know, understand, and respect the rules and procedures for safe winter activity. The applicable rules should be presented and learned before the outing, and all participants should review them just before the activity begins. When youth know and understand the reasons for the rules, they will observe them. When fairly and impartially applied, rules do not interfere with fun. Rules for safety, plus common sense, and good judgment, keep the fun from being interrupted by tragedy.

Please note, in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, there is no differentiation between youth and adults when it comes to wearing a helmet... **The use of helmets is required for every participant for the following activities: downhill skiing, snowboarding.**

The BSA is committed to safety for our Scouts, as well as our leaders. Review the *Guide to Safe Scouting* often, as it is updated on a quarterly basis. I have attached a current copy for your use. You can also find the most recent version of the *Guide to Safe Scouting* at:

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/toc/>

Let's all be Safe!

Elise

Elise Anderson
RVW Council Commissioner



UPCOMING TRAINING FOR ADULTS

Cub Scout Leader Position Specific Training

Cub Scout Leader Position-Specific Training has been developed to give new leaders the knowledge and skills, as well as to generate the enthusiasm, that they need to be successful. The course is designed to provide Cub Scout leaders with the basic information they need to successfully carry out the duties of their position. The course is intended to be conducted in a group setting with space available to break out the group into the different leader positions. The Cub Scout Leader Position-Specific Training course brings together all the basics of Cub Scout leadership into one course, with separate mini-modules to deal with position-specific topics (den leader, Cubmaster, and pack committee and chair). It is made up of three modules. The first module is a 90-



minute introduction to Cub Scouting. All new leaders learn about the aims and methods of Cub Scouting, the pack structure, childhood development, uniforms, and advancement. The second module consists of separate 60-to-90-minute breakout sessions where den leaders, Cubmaster, and pack committee members and chairs will break into separate groups to focus on their specific positions. Den leaders will focus on earning the Bobcat rank, conducting a Cub Scout den meeting, resources they can use to help them conduct their meetings, den management, and denners and den chiefs. Cubmasters will focus on conducting a Cub Scout pack meeting, den management, and denners and den chiefs. And committee members will focus on conducting a Cub Scout pack committee meeting, pack finance, annual program planning, and annual charter renewal. The third module is an hour-long session that brings all the groups back together to learn about preparing families for outdoor programs, keeping Cub Scouting safe, Journey to Excellence, involving adults in Cub Scouting, and continuing their learning journey.

The course should take about three and a half to four hours to deliver.

When: Saturday, February 11
900AM Registration
930AM Session begin

Where: Sawkill Volunteer Fire Department
896 Sawkill Road
Kingston, NY 12401

Fee: Free

Registration: Send an email to dana.kuhns@scouting.org to notify him of your attendance. Please include which of the following sessions you will be completing:

- Cubmaster
- Den Leader
- Pack Committee

Course

Director: Samantha Thomson

BALOO Training

BALOO training is the Cub Scout leader training required for any Cub Scout den or pack outdoor event, including pack camping overnights and Webelos den overnights. 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.

This one-and-a-half-day course is designed as an introduction to the Cub Scout outdoor program for leaders interested in adding a camping component to their Pack activities. BALOO training consists of an online pre-requisite component in addition to an overnight hand on practical. BSA’s Cub Scout level camping policies will be taught along



with the discovery of the necessary tools to help units carry out a successful camping experience. Completion of this course is mandatory for a MINIMUM OF ONE adult on a Pack overnighter.

When: Saturday, March 25 into Sunday, March 26
900AM Registration
930AM Session begin

Where: Camp Tri-Mount
Boy Scout Road
East Jewett, NY

Fee: \$10.00 to cover the cost of the meals provided.

Registration: Send an email to dana.kuhns@scouting.org to notify him of your attendance or call the Council Service Center at 845-339-0846

Course

Director: Kurt Hauck

Scoutmaster & Assistant Scoutmaster Training:

Scoutmaster Position-Specific training is the BSA's initial level of training for adult leaders of Scouts BSA troops. It is designed primarily for Scoutmasters and assistant Scoutmasters. However, committee members and other adults connected to a Scouts BSA troop are welcome to attend. When Scoutmaster Position-Specific training and Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) have both been completed, new adult leaders are considered "Trained" and will have the tools needed to conduct an effective Scouting program. The face-to-face style of Scoutmaster Position-Specific training requires approximately five (5) hours to complete.



When: Friday, April 14
700PM

Where: Camp Tri-Mount
Boy Scout Road
East Jewett, NY

Fee: Free

Course

Director: Tim Mitzel

Registration: Send an email to dana.kuhns@scouting.org to notify him of your attendance or call the Council Service Center at 845-339-0846

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills training.

The Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) course builds and expands on the concepts and themes introduced in Scoutmaster Position-Specific Training and provides Scouters with the confidence to take youth into the outdoors. Specifically, this hands-on program gives adult leaders a practical introduction to the patrol method of a Scout-led troop by teaching many of the practical outdoor skills they need to lead Scouts in the out-of-doors. In addition, the teaching methods, activities, and games model the variety of teaching used in effective and engaging Scouting programs. The skills sessions presented in Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills closely follow the Scouts BSA Handbook for Boys and Scouts BSA Handbook for Girls and are meant to serve as an adult training outline. By using these skills sessions in conjunction with the Scouts BSA handbooks, trainers can be sure new leaders are proficient in many of the basic outdoor skills through First Class rank, and gain exposure to the patrol method and numerous teaching methods and learning games. Each skills session references specific chapters in the handbooks and highlights the 2018 advancement requirements. Hands-on participation is the best learning tool, and this course models the techniques used by effective Scoutmasters, advisors, and other leaders in the Scouting program. Attendees will see and experience different aspects of how Scouting works while playing the role of Scouts in a troop. Participants should leave the training experience with a full understanding of how the patrol method operates, a feeling of comfort in working with and instructing their Scouts, and an increased level of confidence taking Scouts outdoors safely. With that comes great satisfaction.



When: Saturday, April 15 into Sunday, April 16
830AM Registration
900AM Session begin

Where: Camp Tri-Mount
Boy Scout Road
East Jewett, NY

Fee: \$10.00 to cover the cost of the meals provided.

Course
Director: Tim Mitzel

Registration: Send an email to dana.kuhns@scouting.org to notify him of your attendance or call the Council Service Center at 845-339-0846

TRAINERS NEEDED

Have you ever thought about sharing your knowledge of Scouting with others? The Rip Van Winkle Council is putting together a team of Scouters who are willing to do just that. Share what they know about Scouting with those who are new to the program.

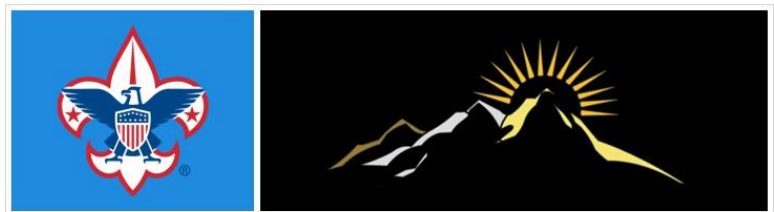
If you are interested in helping provide training and growing the Scouting program, we can use your assistance. Initially, all you need to do is reach out to the Council's Training Chair, John Stanforth at jstanforth@hvc.rr.com.

Not sure if you have the ability? We will provide you with the appropriate training syllabus for each course offered as well as help you become comfortable being in front of a group as a training.



JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE

Journey to Excellence is the Boy Scouts of America program to help Packs, Troops, Crews, Ships and Posts to plan, monitor and evaluate their performance and their ability to serve youth. There are specific criteria for the unit to plan and accomplish. These standards are reviewed each year and revised standards are published. The 2023 Journey to Excellence Standards are now available.



The standards are written as activities that the unit will do. This is to emphasize that JTE is primarily a planning tool.

The Cub Scout scorecard has many changed standards. This is because of changes in the Cub Scout program. For standard #10, Gold now includes recruiting a new leader. We have found that the best units continually recruit parents and other adults who have never been involved in Scouting.

There is no requirement, no expectation and, in fact, we might discourage a unit from believing that they should achieve Gold in all JTE criteria. A great unit is balanced in the service that it provides to youth. There is no shame and no problem if a unit achieves Silver or Bronze. That unit is serving youth. We regard the various colors as meaning:

- Bronze – Effective
- Silver – Excellent
- Gold – Exceptional

Please share with us your thoughts about JTE and any suggestions that you have for improvement. Please send them to jte@scouting.org

National Assessment and Evaluation Committee
Boy Scouts of America

PLEASE download the appropriate spreadsheets attached or from the link below, complete and have your Unit Leadership sign and submit with your recharter papers to the Council Office before January 31st, 2023, and we will see it is reviewed and processed.

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

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

<https://www.scouting.org/awards/journey-to-excellence/unit/>

- [Pack Scorecard](#)
- [Troop Scorecard](#)
- [Ship Scorecard](#)



Please see Additional Information #1, #2, and #3.

KLONDIKE DERBY AND WINTERFEST

**EMBRACE THE CHILL!
RETURN TO THE TUNDRA
January 21, 2023**

The 2022 Rip Van Winkle Council Klondike Derby, in conjunction with the Winterfest, will be held at Camp Tri-Mount, East Jewett New York. 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 January 21, 2023. Units will be assigned a check-in time between 8:30 am and 12:30 pm in 20-minute increments. Units will be able to request 1st, 2nd, & 3rd choice – and will be accommodated if possible. Registration needs to be completed prior to the event and the Troop Activity Roster needs to be submitted in advance. Registration on the same day of the event will be at a higher rate. Return information ASAP to dana.kuhns@scouting.org.

Cub Scouts are invited to come on the same day and participate in a program designed for them. Activities will include:

- Indoor crafts
- Outdoor crafts
- Fun
- Games
- Friendship fire
- Fire roasted apples

IF we have snow, bring your own sled. We will provide the hill. **(Helmets are mandatory)**.

Please see Additional Information #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, and #9.

CLASS OF 2022 EAGLE SCOUT YEARBOOK – POST CARDS BEING SENT OUT

For Scouts who earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2022, please let them know about the Class of 2022 Eagle Scout Yearbook. Scouts should be receiving a yellow postcard in the mail with information about how to purchase a yearbook. Yearbooks are produced and sold by PCI (Publishing Concepts), a partner with the National Eagle Scout Association.

Please see Additional Information #10.

A CULTURE OF SAFETY MOMENTS

SUMMARY

We've all caught some kind of infection, or sickness, from someone else. These illnesses are known as communicable or contagious diseases because they are spread from one person to another. They may occur when a healthy person becomes infected through contact with a sick person or by touching something that a sick person has come in contact with. Communicable diseases are caused by germs—both viruses and bacteria—and some examples include colds, flu, or strep throat. You can catch infections in several different ways, but all involve germs coming in contact with mucous membranes (like your eyes, nose, or mouth) or through breaks in the skin (like a cut or a hangnail).



GENERAL INFORMATION

While most communicable diseases are treatable, preventing the infection is the best approach. Communicable infections spread in many ways, including:

Putting your hands in your mouth or touching your nose with germs on your hands.

Inhaling after an ill person nearby has coughed or sneezed.

Eating food contaminated from improper storage, handling food without proper handwashing, or consuming food that someone who is ill sneezes or coughs around.

Touching blood, vomit, or stool from an infected person.

Touching surfaces that have been contaminated, such as light switches, tables, or faucet handles, can also lead to an infection. For example, a towel, sleeping bag, or even a bar of soap that a sick person has used can have germs on it. It may take hours for the germs to die unless there is proper cleaning. To clean surfaces, use a diluted bleach solution or commercial disinfectant.

Good handwashing is the most important step you can take to prevent spreading germs. Using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer is OK for many situations, but if blood or soiling of the hands is present, or if you have diarrhea, then wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. To help reduce airborne germs, encourage everyone to cough and sneeze into an elbow or shoulder. Other ways to reduce the spread of diseases include: Do not touch obviously infected areas (like a fever blister or wound).

Wear gloves when there is the potential for contact with an infected person or object. Use gloves if you must clean up any body fluids, clean the toilet, or give first aid. Used gloves are contaminated. Remove and discard them before touching anything or anybody else and wash your hands after removing the gloves.

Do not share any personal items like combs, cups, towels, soap, or eating utensils.

If your immune system is not working well or you have not received all recommended vaccines, be sure to stay away from anyone who is ill.

If you have an infection, stay away from others. (See “Resources” below.) A quarantine (isolation) may be useful in some situations. When someone feels better after taking medicine, it does not mean the individual is no longer infectious. If possible, stay at home until you are symptom-free, without medication, for at least 24–48 hours. If you are uncertain when it is OK to return to an activity, talk to your doctor.

RESOURCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Handwashing: Clean Hands Save Lives](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/)

www.cdc.gov/handwashing/

[Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

[Preventing the Flu: Good Health Habits Can Help Stop Germs](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm)

www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm

Boy Scouts of America

[Local Council Membership/Participation Guidelines Regarding Communicable Diseases](#)

[Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Scouting: Recommendations for Unit and Council Event Leaders](#)

[Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist](#)

Please see Additional Information #11, #12, and #13.

REMINDER: NESAS SCHOLARSHIP WINDOW IS OPEN

Be sure to let your units know that the National Eagle Scout Association scholarship application window is now open. Last year, NESAS awarded more than \$536,000 to members. Whether your Eagle Scouts plan to attend a 4-year university or trade school, remind them to apply

Eligibility

Eagle Scouts may apply for NESAS scholarships beginning in their senior year of high school through their junior year in an undergraduate program or by the halfway point of their associate degree program or skilled trade program.

Recipients may receive a NESAS scholarship one time only.

NESAS scholarships are available to Eagle Scouts currently enrolled in or accepted by an accredited educational institution as a full-time student (at least 12 credit hours) in a program leading to an academic degree (including associate degrees) or a skilled trade program.

Cooke four-year scholarship awardees must be enrolled in an accredited four-year college or university as a full-time student (at least 12 credit hours) in a program leading to a bachelor's degree.

NESAS scholarships are not available to students attending any of the U.S. military academies.

NESAS scholarships are not available to graduate students pursuing a master's or doctoral degree.

Application Timeline

Eagle Board of Review Date:

Must be on or before January 24, 2023.

Application Portal Open:

December 1, 2022, through January 31, 2023.

Application Must be Completed and Submitted By 11:59 p.m. CST on January 31, 2023.

Announcement of Scholarship Awards:

June 9, 2023.

NEW BSA MERIT BADGE HUB PROVIDES ENHANCES EXPERIENCE, MORE INFORMATION

The new BSA Merit Badge Hub offers a host of improved features. Site navigation now focuses on an [A-Z merit badge listing](#) and a specialized [Eagle-required merit badge grouping](#). The hub also features integrations with [Scout Shop](#) merit badge pamphlets and other items useful for completing badge requirements. Additionally, the pages feature links to content from [Scout Life magazine](#) and [On Scouting](#), providing Scouts and other visitors with a wealth of useful information about the badges.

SCOUTS BSA UNITS AT MEETINGS, ACTIVITIES, CAMP AND MORE.

Scouts BSA is a program for boys and girls in gender-separate units (see [BSA Registration Guidebook page 10](#)). Scouts BSA members must register and participate with the unit that aligns with their gender identity.

Scouts BSA male troops and Scouts BSA female troops cannot be combined into a single unit. Each unit must provide its own adult leadership in adherence of Scouting's [Barriers to Abuse](#).

A parent and/or leader cannot bring their Scouts BSA son or daughter to participate with an opposite gender troop (see Scouting's [Barriers to Abuse FAQ](#) under program requirements). A unit who does so violates BSA's program design as well as Scouting's [Barriers to Abuse](#).

A Scouts BSA male troop and a Scouts BSA female troop could potentially share a campsite if the campsite's layout and amenities meet all the requirements of Scouting's [Barriers to Abuse](#), including privacy and separate accommodations. As always, each unit must provide its own adult leadership in adherence of Scouting's [Barriers to Abuse](#).

These policies exist even if a Scouts BSA male troop and a Scouts BSA female troop are linked (see [Scouts BSA linked troops FAQ](#)).

WATER BOTTLE ROCKETS

SUMMARY

So you want to launch a water bottle rocket. These pressurized rockets use pressurized air and water and can fly at 100 mph. Unfortunately, used improperly or carelessly, they have been known to burst, strike spectators, or launch into the face of a participant. And yes, this has really happened. The rockets have also sometimes damaged property by landing hundreds of feet away. Adequate and knowledgeable adult supervision is critical to a safe, successful launch.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Leaders and participants should be aware of local and state laws related to the launching of rockets, including water bottle rockets. Here are a few essential tips to have a safe and fun event:

- Rockets should be remotely launched from a stable launch device and not handheld. The launch device should be pointed within 30 degrees of vertical to ensure that the rocket flies nearly straight up.

- If more than 30 degrees of tilt is needed, either remove the rocket from service or the wind is likely too strong.
- Operators should stay at least 15 feet from the launcher and spectators at least 50 feet. High-pressure air can cause a water bottle rocket to rupture and explode, causing severe injury.
- The plastic bottles commonly used for soft drinks or water are generally used to construct the body of the rocket. Flying components—such as fins, a nose cone, or decorations—need to be lightweight and non-metallic (such as Styrofoam, tape, etc.).
- “Payload” items such as GoPro cameras and flight computers are not recommended due to their added weight.
- Air pressures should be appropriate: Most websites recommend a maximum range between 50 and 90 pounds per square inch (psi). Do not use any other gases, such as propane, Co2, or nitrogen—only atmospheric air.
- The use of friction-type launchers where the rocket is not held by a latch reduces the chance of overpressure.
- Use a working and accurate pressure gauge, visible at a distance from the launch site, to verify the pressure being used.
- Compressed air tanks may speed up a launch, but we recommend a manual tire pump set up away from the launch site. High pressure tanks or pumps are not recommended.
- If a rocket does not launch successfully, DO NOT allow anyone to approach the rocket until it has been depressurized through a remote “bleed down” of pressure.

