



SCOUTING TRAILS

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

APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

OFFERING ASSISTANCE

Scouters:

A Scout is helpful.

A Scout cares about other people. He willingly volunteers to help others without expecting payment or reward.

Scouts are helpful through the many service projects in their communities. They are also helpful in their homes, by doing their chores and taking care of their responsibilities.

If you know someone is struggling, offer your assistance.

The Scouting program exists in the United States because an "Unknown Scout" offered assistance in a time of need. More than 110 years later, the concept of offering assistance is still at the core of our Scouting program.

"to help other people at all times"

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

COUNCIL CALENDAR

| April | Subject |
|--------------|--|
| 17 | RVWC – Cub Scout Leader & Scouts BSA Leader Roundtable |
| 18 | RVWC - Finance Committee |
| 20 | RVWC - Commissioner Huddle |
| 21 to 22 | I - Eid Al Fatr |
| 27 | RVWC - Executive Committee meeting |
| 29 | NST 10 College of Commissioner Science |

| May | Subject |
|------------|---|
| 1 | RVWC – Camping and Outdoor Program Committee |
| 2 | RVWC - Council Service Center closed until noon for training. |
| 2 | NST#10 - Membership Team zoom 8:00 pm |
| 3 | NST#10 - Commissioner Team zoom 6:00 pm |
| 4 | RVWC – Training Committee |
| 5 to 7 | RVWC - Council Camporee at Camp Tri-Mount |
| 7 | OA - Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) |
| 7 | OA - Lodge meeting |
| 11 | RVWC – Advancement Committee |
| 13 | RVWC – Spring Bowlathon - TENTATIVE |
| 14 | OA - Lodge Meeting |
| 15 | RVWC – Cub Scout Leader & Scouts BSA Leader Roundtable |
| 16 | RVWC - Finance Committee |
| 18 | RVWC - Commissioner Huddle |
| 20 | CTM - Beaver Day |
| 21 | NST#10 - Safe Scouting zoom 8:00 pm |
| 25 | J - Shavout begins at sunset |
| 25 | RVWC - Annual meeting / Executive Board meeting |
| 26 to 27 | J - Shavout |
| 28 | OA - Lodge Executive Committee (LEC) |
| 29 | US - Memorial Day |
| 29 | RVWC - Council Service Center closed |
| 30 to 6/1 | BSA - National Annual meeting - Atlanta |

COUNCIL LEADER'S ROUNDTABLE – April 17TH

Our next Leader Roundtable will be Monday, April 17th at 700PM on Zoom.

Topic: **RVWC Leader Roundtable**

Time: **Apr 13, 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

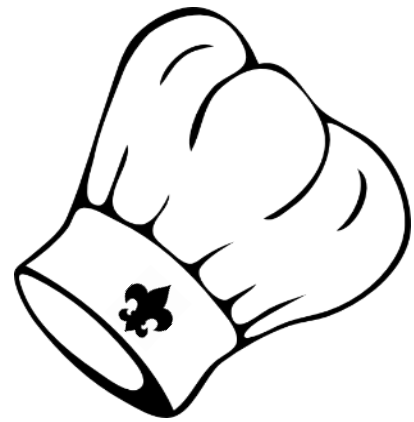
+16465588656,,89057893143#,,,,*656380# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 890 5789 3143
Passcode: 656380

TOP CHEF OF THE MOUNTAIN CAMPOREE

The 13th point of the Scout Law is...A Scout is hungry! Every Scout **MUST** bring along his own fork, knife, and spoon set, as well as cup and bowl to each event. If you want to sample any of the cooking along the way, you have to bring your own utensils! There will be dish washing stations along the way to keep things clean.



The Camporee Program can be set up to teach Camp Kitchen Skills with a competition on the specific skills Instruction and Competition in this session will be conducted at the Patrol Level. Patrols will move from station to station. Each station will give instruction in a basic Camp Kitchen Skill. When the Instruction session is over, the Patrol will be asked to demonstrate that they have learned the skill. The demonstration will be a hands-on demonstration of the skill that has been learned. The Patrols will be scored on their knowledge of the skill taught through the use of pre-established score sheets. The Patrols will rotate from station to station. At the end of the sessions, the scores for each Patrol will be tallied.

Instead of teaching camp kitchen skills, competition events will be held including:

- First Aid
- Axe Accuracy
- Fire Starters
- Golf Ball Races
- Honeydew Melon Scout Executive Carving/Drawing Competition with Life Story
- Spice Up Your Life without Breaking the Bank
- Make Your Own Side Dish Your Life without Breaking the Bank
- Scoutmaster Chili Cook Off
- Patrol Best Disc Masters
- Patrol Geocaching Scavenger Hunt

See Additional Information - #1

CONGRATULATIONS TROOP 42

I received the following comment and picture from one of our leaders. It is worth sharing with all.

“Hi,

One of my parents sent me this great picture from our meeting last night. We had 24 boys, including 3 new boys. Have great support from my parents and leaders.

Colin”



NOAC RETURNS

**Don't miss out on a week full of nonstop fun when NOAC Returns:
July 29th - August 3rd, 2024
University of Colorado Boulder**

What is NOAC: The National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) is the flagship national Order of the Arrow event. It is held every two years at a major university campus and is typically attended by as many as 8,000 Arrowmen from all 50 states. It is second only to the BSA National Jamboree in size and scope.



Who can attend: Any registered Order of the Arrow member as of July 29th, 2024.

What to expect: Day to Day at NOAC includes interactive training sessions, enticing games, and incredible shows every evening. From learning how to better lead a team to competing to see which lodge is truly the best at GaGa Ball; from preparing for a zombie apocalypse to escape rooms, and everything in between, there is something for everyone at NOAC!

This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime event! Join us and thousands of Arrowmen from across the country as we venture to the University of Colorado Boulder next summer!

Don't miss out: More information to be released at upcoming lodge meetings.

VOICE OF THE SCOUT SURVEY SCHEDULING DETAILS

The Voice of the Scout survey is continuing to be sent out to every unit level volunteer, parents of Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA members under 14 years of age, and Youth members over 14 years of age. The surveys are sent quarterly to 1/4 of the Scouting population for whom we have email addresses in the membership database.

The schedule for sending the 2023 Voice of the Scout survey is below:

- Q2 Email Invitation Send: June 6, Email Reminder: June 13, Survey Close: June 30
- Q3 Email Invitation Send: Sept. 5, Email Reminder: Sept. 12, Survey Close: Sept. 19
- Q4 Email Invitation Send: Dec. 5, Email Reminder: Dec. 13, Survey Close: Dec. 19

Please encourage your leaders, parents, and older youth members to take 5-8 minutes to give us their feedback so that we can continue to listen to them and make changes based on their recommendations.

WOOD BADGE 2023

Greetings My Wood Badge Friends and Family,

When I took Wood Badge, it lifted my spirits and made me a better scouter. It expanded my understanding of my role in scouting and helped to make my unit stronger. I have no doubt that it did the same for all of you.



WOOD BADGE

Please help me in spreading the word that registration for the Greater Hudson Valley Council 2023 Wood Badge course, 10-388-23, is open. The 5-day course will be held Aug. 25-27 & Sep. 30-Oct. 1.

Please let your unit leaders know and encourage them to sign up soon and attend, so they, too, can experience this mountain top experience, form bonds of friendship, and have lots of fun along the way!

Your unit leaders can access the registration through the GHVC website (training resources, calendar, or button on the home page). The registration page has more information, as well.

Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Yours in Scouting,

John Graesser

Course Director
Wood Badge | 10-388-23
914-443-5172 | jdgraesser@gmail.com



WOODBADGE AT MASSAWEPIE

Our team is kicking off our course on Saturday March 18 with our Orientation at the Museum of Play with the Staff Development Meetings to follow. Our vision for the course is **Serious About Fun Since 1919** so this location is perfect.

The course is the first at Massawepie Scout Camps near Tupper Lake and our first summer course. We are doing a Destination course meaning its 5-days in a row so you can drive or fly in and experience an immersive Wood Badge Course at a truly spectacular camp at the perfect time of year, August 20-25 and then head back home recharged with all you have learned and experienced.



We have 11 participants signed-up so far. We have 37 spots left. If you have scouters in your units that want to sign-up for our course, I'd recommend doing it soon. Registration is easy to find just go to WoodBadgeSummerCamp.org to sign-up. Scholarships are also available. Just have them give me a call and we will work it out. Dillon Constable 585-350-8773

Recruitment. I'm happy to travel. If you have an event like a Scouting University, an important Round Table, a key training event that you would like me to attend, please ask. Myself or one of our team would be happy to come out to present, or answer questions.

Please don't hesitate if you have any questions about our course!

Serious about fun since 1919

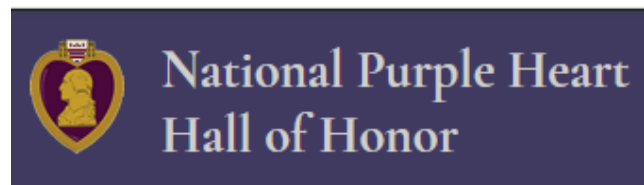
Dillon Constable

Course Director, 10-397-23
585-350-8773

WOOD BADGE
Destination Course
MASSAWEPIE

NATIONAL PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR

Are you looking for enrichment opportunities for your scout group? Do you want to find a different kind of field trip that actively involves the scouts in the program? If so, allow me the opportunity to tell you about a unique program available here at the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor called, Soldiers Across Time. This is an interactive program incorporating visual, tactile-kinesthetic, and auditory learning strategies to actively engage students in the learning environment. The program links closely with the Common Core social studies practices of Gathering and Using Evidence; Chronological Reasoning and Causation; and Civic Participation. It encourages students to explore and engage in their own learning while having fun at the same time.



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I hope that you will consider visiting the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor and having your children participate in our Soldiers Across Time program. If you have more questions, or wish to learn more about the program please contact:

peter.bedrossian@parks.ny.gov, or by calling (845)

561-1765 ext. 28.

RECLAIMING OUR HISTORY

The National Council has the Rip Van Winkle Council down for the HUGUENOT TRAIL.

(<https://tap.scouting.org/historic-trails/#ny>)

– NEW YORK –

- BATTLE OF PLATTSBURN, 1814, HISTORIC TRAIL, [Twin Rivers Council](#), Albany, NY
- WILKINSON TRAIL-SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD, [Twin Rivers Council](#), Albany, NY
- MILLARD FILMORE HISTORICAL TRAIL, [Longhouse Council](#), Syracuse, NY
- CORNING, COLONISTS, COWBOYS, AND CRYSTAL HISTORIC TRAIL, [Five Rivers Council](#), Horseheads, NY
- NIAGRA FRONTIER TRAIL, [Greater Niagara Frontier Council](#), Buffalo, NY
- PORTAGE TRAIL, [Allegheny Highlands Council](#), Falconer, NY
- KINZUA BRIDGE TRAIL, [Allegheny Highlands Council](#), Falconer, NY
- WESTCHESTER COUNTY HISTORIC TRAIL, [Westchester-Putnam Council](#) Hawthorne, NY
- YONKERS, NY:CITY OF GRACIOUS LIVING TRAIL, [Westchester-Putnam Council](#), Hawthorne, NY
- THE YONKERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, GRINTON I. WILL LIBRARY, [Westchester-Putnam Council](#), Hawthorne, NY
- HERITAGE TRAIL, [Seneca Waterways Council](#), Rochester, NY
- TRAIL OF THE LOST CITY OF TRYON, [Seneca Waterways Council](#), Rochester, NY
- HISTORIC TRAILS, [Leatherstocking Council](#), Utica, NY
- MAJOR BENJAMIN TALMADGE TRAIL, [Suffolk County Council](#), Medford, NY
- **THE HUGUENOT TRAIL, [Rip Van Winkle Council](#), Kingston, NY**
- BROOKLYN HISTORIC QUEST TRAIL, [Greater New York Councils](#), New York, NY
- THE OLD NEW YORK HISTORICAL TRAIL, [Greater New York Councils](#), New York NY
- PELHAM BAY PARK HISTORIC TRAIL, [Greater New York Councils](#), New York, NY
- TEN MILE RIVER SCOUT MUSEUM OF THE GREATER NEW YORK COUNCIL, [Greater New York Councils](#), New York, NY
- THE FLUSHING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND SCOUTING HISTORICAL TRAIL, [Greater New York Councils](#), New York, NY
- REVOLUTIONARY TRAIL, [Revolutionary Trails Council](#), Utica, NY
- ROMANS NOSE, [Revolutionary Trails Council](#), Utica, NY

Unfortunately, there is no record of this trail in the Council office. We have no booklets, no patches, and no information on the trail. If you can provide some information on the trail, we may be able to generate an information packet that can be shared with others when requested.

NATIVE AMERICAN TRADITIONS SURVEY RELEASED

The BSA continuously evaluates the relevance of its program to ensure that it remains engaging for youth and families throughout the country. Native American traditions have been a central part of the BSA program, particularly within the Order of the Arrow, for more than a century. BSA is in the initial stages of conducting a broad assessment of how those traditions may remain part of the program for future generations. In connection with that assessment, starting shortly, BSA will begin delivering a survey digitally to randomly selected members, volunteers, and staff so they can provide input and perspective on this important issue. All Scout Executives will be sent the survey and asked to respond with their personal perspective.

It is important to note that **no related decisions have been made, and BSA is in the early stages of assessing the issues.**

SPECIAL MERIT BADGE QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS



In addition to the standard requirements and approvals for being a merit badge counselor, selected merit badges have specific skills requirement in order to serve as a counselor in those areas.

The required qualifications for merit badge counseling and supervision not only assist in managing risk, but also give counselors credibility. Scouts will see them as people of importance they can look up to and learn from. A well-qualified counselor can extend a young person's attention span: More will be heard and understood, discussions will be more productive, and true interest developed. The conversations can lead to a relationship of mutual respect where the Scout is confident to offer their thoughts and opinions and value those of the merit badge counselor. Thus, it is that social skills and self-reliance grow, and examples are set and followed.

While it is acceptable for a counselor registered in one council to approve merit badges for scouts in another. It is highly recommended as a courtesy that a call be placed to the Scoutmaster to discuss the process. This conversation should be precipitated by the scout speaking with their Scoutmaster PRIOR to beginning the merit badge.

FROM THE GUIDE TO ADVANCEMENT HANDBOOK

General Supervision Requirements

- Swimming and watercraft activities must be conducted in accordance with BSA Safe Swim Defense or BSA Safety Afloat, respectively, and be supervised by mature and conscientious adults at least 21 years old and trained in the program applicable. Counselors for merit badges involving swimming or the use of watercraft must be so trained, or use others who are.
- CPR instruction, wherever it is required, must be taught by instructors currently trained by a nationally certified provider. Several such providers are mentioned in the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#).

The following merit badges have special qualifications or certifications for either the merit badge counselor or the supervisor of certain activities that may be involved.

Counselors and advancement administrators should consult the merit badge pamphlets for details and to maintain awareness of changes and updates as pamphlets are revised.

Archery. Archery activities must be supervised by a BSA National Camping School-trained shooting sports director or USA Archery or National Field Archery Association instructor, or by someone who has been trained by one of the three; or alternatively, the activities may be supervised by someone with at least Level 1 training in the operation of an archery range from USA Archery, NFAA, or an equivalent.

Canoeing. Canoeing merit badge counselors must have either BSA Aquatics Instructor or Canoeing Instructor certification from the American Canoe Association, American Red Cross, or equivalent; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such or trained by an instructor so qualified.

Citizenship in Society:

- Counselors must complete the BSA National Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training available through My.Scouting.
- Participate in a discussion/merit badge review with a representative from the Council Advancement Committee. This will be an opportunity for prospective counselors to obtain answers to questions and/or discuss additional resources that may help in instructing the badge.

Climbing. All climbing, belaying, and rappelling exercises and activities must be supervised by a qualified rock-climbing instructor who is a mature and conscientious adult at least 21 years old, and who is trained in BSA Climb on Safely and understands the risks inherent to these activities. Training as BSA climbing director or instructor is highly recommended. Someone with certification in First Aid/CPR/AED from the American Red Cross (or equivalent) must be present at these activities.

Kayaking. Those supervising kayaking activities must have formal training in kayaking and paddle craft instruction, evidenced by either BSA Aquatics Instructor or Paddle Craft Safety Instructor certification, or kayaking instructor certification from the American Canoe Association, British Canoe Union, or American Red Cross, or equivalent; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such or trained by an instructor so qualified.

Lifesaving. Demonstrations or activities in or on the water must be supervised by an adult at least 21 years old with certification in Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED or equivalent, and also as BSA Lifeguard or Aquatics Instructor or equivalent.

Motor Boating. Motor boating activities must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult, age 21 or older, who has completed BSA Safety Afloat training and must present a valid Boating Safety Certificate.

In consideration of Brianna's Law:

If you were born on or after May 1, 1996 you will need a boating safety certificate.

Under a new law known as Brianna's Law, all motor boat operators born on or after Jan. 1, 1993 will need a boating safety certificate beginning in 2020.

Those born on or after Jan. 1, 1988 will need a boating safety certificate beginning in 2022.

Those born on or after Jan. 1, 1983 will need a boating safety certificate beginning in 2023.

Those born on or after Jan. 1, 1978 will need a boating safety certificate beginning in 2024.

All motor boat operators regardless of age will need a boating safety certificate beginning in 2025.

Approved courses include those offered by NYS Parks, the [U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary](#), the [U.S. Power Squadrons](#) or [U.S. Powerboating](#)

Rifle Shooting. The merit badge counselor must take responsibility to assure that all instruction involving any handling of firearms or live ammunition must be supervised by a certified BSA National Camping School (NCS) shooting sports director, or National Rifle Association (NRA) Rifle Shooting Instructor or Coach. That involving muzzleloaders must be supervised by an NCS shooting sports director or NRA/National Muzzleloader Rifle Association (NMLRA)–certified muzzleloader firearms instructor. Shooting must be supervised by an NRA-certified Range Safety Officer (RSO). If instruction and shooting are to occur at the same time, both the RSO and qualified instructor must be present. The supervisor and instructor may not be the same person. Note that commercial shooting ranges may provide RSOs. See the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) and the BSA [National Shooting Sports Manual, No. 30931](#), for further details on shooting sports.

Rowing. Rowing merit badge counselors must have either BSA Aquatics Instructor certification or equivalent; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such or trained by an instructor so qualified.

Scuba Diving. All phases of scuba instruction—classroom, pool, and open-water training—are limited to instructors trained and sanctioned by one of the following agencies: Professional Association of Diving Instructors, National Association of Underwater Instructors, Scuba Schools International, International Diving Educators Association, Professional Diving Instructors Corporation, or Scuba Diving International, or be a member of the World Recreational Scuba Training Council.

Shotgun Shooting. The merit badge counselor must take responsibility to assure that all instruction involving any handling of firearms or live ammunition must be supervised by a certified NCS shooting sports director or NRA Shotgun Instructor or Coach. That involving muzzle-loading shotguns must be supervised by an NCS shooting sports director or NRA/NMLRA certified muzzle-loading shotgun instructor. Shooting must be supervised by an NRA-certified Range Safety Officer. If instruction and shooting are to occur at the same time, both the RSO and qualified instructor must be present. They may not be the same person. Note that commercial shooting ranges may provide RSOs.

Small Boat Sailing. Those supervising sailing activities must have completed Safety Afloat training. They must be mature and conscientious adults age 21 or older. Appropriate credentials include instructor certification with a recognized sailing agency or school, US Sailing, or the American Sailing Association for sailing experience with different hull types including the rig being used for instruction; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such or trained by an instructor so qualified.

Snow Sports. Activities in the field must be supervised by a mature and conscientious adult 21 years or older who is committed to compliance with BSA Winter Sports Safety as defined in the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#).

Whitewater. Whitewater merit badge counselors must be designated by the local council and certified as whitewater canoeing or kayaking instructors by the American Canoe Association or have equivalent certification, training, or expertise.

See Additional Information - #2

NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE! CUB SCOUT LEADER BOOKS

We went to order more of the Cub Scout Leader books this week and were told the books are not available in a printed version at this time. In order to get your copy, you can download a PDF of each book at the following websites:

Tiger Leader Guide

<https://pigeonpost.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Tiger-Leader-Guide.pdf>

Wolf Leader Guide

<https://pigeonpost.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Wolf-Leader-Guide.pdf>

Bear Leader Guide

<https://pigeonpost.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Bear-Leader-Guide.pdf>

Webelos Leader Guide

<https://pigeonpost.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Webelos-Leader-Guide.pdf>

Cub Scout Leader Book

<https://pigeonpost.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Cub-Scout-Leader-Guide.pdf>

