

TOP CLOUDS: 12.1.20 edition

An online edition of this Apache District Newsletter can also be found @
<http://www.mccscouting.org/smoke-signals>

Apache Roundtable for Thursday, December 10, 2020—None planned.

Announcement of 2020 District Award recipients is expected on this day by way of
Hot Off the Fire email blast.

Apache Roundtable for Thursday, January 14, 2021—On schedule.

Zoom meeting for Scouts BSA troop leaders, 7:00 p.m.—Presentation Topic: Pending
<https://www.mccscouting.org/apache-roundtables>

On Schedule - Eagle Project Proposal Reviews, Thursday, December 10, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

In-person reviews of Eagle Project Proposals will be available.

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 6828 Old Reid Road, Charlotte, NC 28210

Scouts should follow instructions for scheduling posted at

<https://www.mccscouting.org/eagle-scouts>, then Project Review Information, or
https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/176532_a901c5127e164caebbb165cb131bb7c7.pdf

IMPORTANT - Apache District Annual Awards

Although our December Apache Banquet will not occur this year, Apache District will still recognize the outstanding contributions to Apache Scouting by its units and district volunteers. We are seeking nominations for the following:

District Award of Merit

Cub Scouter of the Year

Scouter of the Year

Venture Leader of the Year

FOR INFORMATION AND NOMINATION FORM SEE <https://www.mccscouting.org/apache>

Go to the UPCOMING EVENTS SECTION at the bottom of the Apache District home page.

In addition, units may name a Unit Godsend Award Recipient. FOR GODSEND AWARD FORMS, please see

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeexCJZAep_RwUnjg5bc97sw68jU6Nb3G8ET_pjQFVubICxJg/viewform?usp=sf_link

All nominations are due by Tuesday, December 2, 2020 by email to delwhittaker@msn.com
Honorees will be notified and published on Thursday, December 10, 2020.

NEW and IMPORTANT - Scouting for Food 2021

Please contact Phil Adams to verify your unit's participation in 2021 Scouting for Food. At this time only 5 units (8, 11, 55, 116, and 405) have signed up. Remember you will have the same territory as last year. I can send a picture if needed.

Details and the leader guide will be confirmed at a later date.

Phil Adams

704 575 5209

hrdadams@yahoo.com

NEW and IMPORTANT - Scouting for Food 2021

1. We will not have paper bags or plastic bags to hand out this year. This change is NOT due to Covid 19. Instead, approx. 32 states have placed bans on the use of plastic bags. This has created a nationwide shortage of brown paper bags and Harris Teeter does not have access to

150,000 bags for a special SFF print job. This policy shift has also disrupted the plastic bag industry and Harris Teeter does not have access to 150,000 plastic bags for a special print job either. SOOOOOO, Harris Teeter will be able to print card stock door hangers that can be hung on door handles or placed in paper boxes. The door hangers will include dates and times for SFF collection, a list of products most needed, ask people to use bags and/or boxes they already have for their collection, an online giving option, and a place for units to write in their unit number/name so residents know which unit came to their house. Loaves & Fishes staff will design the door hanger and we will include a mock-up with the online Leaders Guide. **FYI, for those who choose the online giving option, \$1.00 will purchase four (4) pounds of food for a family in need.**

2. Roundtable sign-ups and door hanger distribution. Please ask units to cover the same neighborhoods they have covered in prior years. If a unit backs out, please try to get another unit to cover these areas. Instead of bags, we will give units an equal number of door hangers so the numbers they have used in previous years should remain the same. We are still developing a plan to distribute the door hangers and this will depend on when Roundtables begin to meet in person again. If they meet in person in January then we will have them at the January meetings. Otherwise, we will make arrangements for the door hangers to be picked up at the Scout Office or Loaves & Fishes. I will let you know when a distribution plan has been finalized.

3. Scouts at the Door. Some units have opted to set up tables outside of Harris Teeter stores and solicit donations from customers. We are checking with Harris Teeter to determine if this is still permitted in the world of Covid 19. I will share this info with you when I hear back from Harris Teeter and the Leaders Guide will be updated to reflect any new requirements.

4. Collection sites/locations will stay the same as last year.

5. Sorting and bag counting will not happen at collection sites this year. Because of Covid 19, we are asking units to "Drop and Dash". Units will bring their bags/boxes of food to the normal collection sites/locations. Catawba Lodge members will assist with unloading food from vehicles. Bags will not be counted at drop-off. However, units are encouraged to count their own bags if this is important to them. NO SORTING will happen at the collection sites. Instead, the bags of food will be transferred by Catawba Lodge members and other volunteers directly into the large boxes that are in each Loaves & Fishes trailer. The food will be hauled to the Loaves & Fishes warehouse where it will be stored and sorted by volunteers utilizing appropriate social distancing guidelines.

Loaves & Fishes encourages units to sign up to help sort. Sorters must be at least age 10 or older and group sizes are currently limited to 10 people. This number may increase as North Carolina Covid 19 guidelines are updated. They ask groups to commit to a 2-hour shift and they are currently open until 6 pm on weekdays. Weekend shifts may be added if needed. This is a great way for units to give back to their community and to earn service hours. The sign-up process will be added to the Leaders Guide.

January, 2021, Door hanger pickup, date, time, location pending

Saturday, January 30, 2021, Door hanger distribution to neighborhoods

Sunday, January 31, 2021, Door hanger distribution to worshippers leaving church services

Saturday, February 6, 2021, Food donation collection from neighborhoods

Sunday, February 7, 2021, Food donation collection from worshippers arriving to church services

Units should contact Phil Adams, Apache SFF Coordinator to verify territories and numbers at 704 575 5209 or at hردادams@yahoo.com

Cub Pack Support Task Force

We are starting up a new Cub Pack Support Task Force in the Apache Commissioner Corps and need YOUR help. Many of you are familiar with the unit commissioner role which partners

a specific commissioner with a specific unit. We're expanding on that model to create a team of experts to assist Cub Packs across the district that have a targeted need.

We are seeking two levels of support for this. First are seasoned leaders who can commit to monthly meetings designed to review packs who are in need of this targeted help and formulate plans to assist. Second, a network of leaders within the district who are subject matter experts on specific areas such as recruitment, programing, camping, or fundraising. These folks would be available as "on-call" support when needs are identified in their areas of expertise.

If you can help out with this, or if you know someone who can, please contact Chris McLean at chris.m.1995@live.com and Jason Bennett at jrb287@hotmail.com.

NEW - Recruiting Ideas for Your Unit

Recruiting is tough right now with no access to traditional CMS schools, many charter organizations with closed buildings, and families justifiably skeptical of in-person meetings. The following ideas are for your Unit to leverage now (and in the future!):

Nextdoor.com – promote what your Scouts are doing, when and where you meet.

Facebook – if you don't have a Unit page, that's fine, many HOA's or neighborhoods have a page where you can promote what your Scouts are doing, when and where you meet.

Charter Org News – ask your Charter Org to promote what your Scouts are doing in their news/ bulletins. Have them share on their Social Media channels.

Local School Principal & PTA – do you know the Principal and/ or PTA where most of your Scouts come from? Now is the time to build and foster those relationships. Cleanup around the school, take pictures and have them post on their Social Media channels.

For more information or ideas, contact Apache Membership Chair Andy Waligowski at andy.waligowski@gmail.com

Cub Scout Meetings – Where Do We Go?

If your Charter Org is closed, you can still meet outside. Now is a great time to keep the outing in Scouting. Meet at public parks – Town or County parks are open. If you can't have traditional Den Meetings, meet as a Pack and let the Scouts learn Scout skills – some may be advanced or repeats, but get them outside and have them bring a friend!!

For more information or ideas, contact Apache Membership Chair Andy Waligowski at andy.waligowski@gmail.com

Cub Scout leaders

These resources may be helpful to planning Cub programs:

<https://www.sgcbasa.org/files/29281/Lion-Leader-Parent-Guide-pdf>

<https://www.sgcbasa.org/files/29282/Tiger-Leader-Guide-pdf>

<https://www.sgcbasa.org/files/29283/Wolf-Leader-Guide-pdf>

<https://www.sgcbasa.org/files/29284/Bear-Leader-Guide-pdf>

<https://www.sgcbasa.org/files/29285/Webelos-Leader-Guide-pdf>

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2018/10/05/den-leader-guides-cub-scout-leader-book-available-in-print-and-digital-formats/>

These Cub Scout Adventures video resources can help your next den meeting:

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/08/25/these-cub-scout-adventures-video-resources-can-help-your-next-den-meeting/>

Merit Badge Information

More information on local courses, including course Guides, flyers, registration methods, costs, pre-course homework, and appropriate clothing, is available at

<https://www.mccscouting.org/around-the-campfire>

Information on regional and national courses is posted at

<http://www.meritbadge.info/>

<http://www.meritbadge.info/mbn/default.aspx>

Current merit badge requirements:

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>

Optional merit badge workbooks: <http://usscouts.org/meritbadges.asp>

Scheduled Merit Badge Courses

NEW – Winter Camp 2020 at Belk Scout Camp

Friday-Saturday-Sunday, December 18-19-20, 2020

For link to Winter Camp 2020 Guide, on-line registration and payment, please go to

<https://mccscouting.doubleknot.com/event/winter-camp-2020/2744085>

Most merit badge classes have filled to capacity as of 11/29/2020.

Snow Sports Merit Badge

Friday-Saturday-Sunday, February 26-27-28, 2021

Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center

91 North Lakeshore Drive, Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

https://www.lakejunaluska.com/specials_packages/group_packages/boy_scout_retreats/

Schedule Your Own Merit Badge Courses

Climbing Merit Badge

Inner Peaks

10715 Independence Pointe Pkwy., Matthews, NC 28105

<https://www.innerpeaks.com/climbing-for-kids/>

704 844 6677

Mr. Chris Dimatteo of the Inner Peaks staff is a registered Climbing Merit Badge Counselor with Mecklenburg County Council. Courses are offered for a minimum class size of 6, a maximum class size of 18, on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. with 1/2 hour lunch break or on Sundays from noon to 7:00 p.m. Courses cover all requirements except for requirement # 1 covering first aid skills, which Scouts must complete through their home troops.

Scuba Merit Badge

Lake Norman Scuba LLC

482 River Hwy, Mooresville, NC 28117

Phone: 704 660 3483

<https://www.lakenormanscuba.com/>

Mr. Andrew Katsamas is a registered Scuba Merit Badge Counselor with Mecklenburg County Council.

Pre-course requirements: Completion of Swimming Merit Badge and of CPR training

Course completion requires 6 hours of pool instruction each day for 1 weekend and 6 hours of quarry diving instruction each day for 1 weekend and a 1-hour review with the counselor.

Schedule Your Own

Scouts BSA STEM Nova Award Course

Scouts BSA STEM Up and Away Nova Award for Engineering

NEW – iFly has added virtual (remote) learning opportunities for Scouts interested in earning the Up and Away Nova Award.

Scouts BSA members can complete requirements 3 and 5 of the Up and Away Award through the online course and requirement 4 with a dedicated visit to iFLY Charlotte (Concord) located at 7840 Lyles Ln NW, Concord, NC 28027, phone 704 851 4359.

Website: <https://www.iflyworld.com/charlotte/>

For information on registration, programs for individuals or groups, scheduling, and costs, please click on <https://www.iflyworld.com/programs/boy-scouts/>

For Scouts BSA STEM Nova Award Requirements, please click on

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PFTMhH0_cEBgt7PO3s9bcYCdHqX-zV9m/view?usp=sharing

For Scouts BSA STEM Nova Award Video Suggestions, please click on

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PFTMhH0_cEBgt7PO3s9bcYCdHqX-zV9m/view?usp=sharing

For information on adult registration and training as a Nova Award Counselor and a Supernova Award Mentor, please click on

<https://www.scouting.org/stem-nova-awards/volunteer-support/>

Scouting EPA Award

On August 17, 2020, the EPA and BSA issued a press release and held a signing ceremony in Washington, D.C. announcing a new Scouting EPA Award, recognized by a patch.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-boy-scouts-announce-collaboration-environmental-education-award-program-and-special>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR3Jc9hmJSczsyBsFSq5XJGgIsKWIGd1BAEN19IUSyL_bpBxe7QiUE9sCA4&feature=youtu.be&v=s_6V4fRrGmo&app=desktop

Scouts must complete requirements before December 31, 2021.

Requirements are discussed at 6:40 and following on the video.

Scouts must earn 4 merit badges, including 1 merit badge from each of 3 groups, one from Animal Studies Group (Bird Study or Insect Study or Mammal Study or Reptile and Amphibian Study),

one from Outdoor Activity Group (Backpacking, Camping, Canoeing, Climbing, Gardening),

one from Earth Sciences Group (Energy, Forestry, Geology, Oceanography, Plant Science, Weather).

The fourth merit badge is Public Health.

Scouts must also participate in an Environmental or Public Health Community Service project for 6 hours of service.

BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award

In early November, 2020, BSA announced a new conservation award program to replace the Hornaday Award program. Information is posted at

<https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/conservation-and-environment/conservation-awards-and-recognitions/bsa-distinguished-conservation-service-award/>

Youth awards must be earned. Scouts must develop and execute 2 significant projects, involving research, collaboration and project planning, completion, and education.

“The projects must be developed under the guidance and pre-approval of the Scout’s Unit Leader, a BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award Adviser, and the Council Conservation Committee. One of the projects may include the Scout’s Eagle Scout project (if applicable). All projects must contribute to environment improvement on a long-term scale.”

Conservation and STEM Subcommittees

The Council Advancement Committee has recently developed a subcommittee to promote conservation-related and STEM-related activities and awards. Tony Roux is a Senior

Environmental Specialist with Mecklenburg County and will serve as chair. Stuart Tucker and Scott Phillips will also participate.

The Conservation-STEM Subcommittee invites Scouts who are interested in earning any of the BSA Supernova STEM Awards or a BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award to consult with the committee before beginning requirements. These awards will require sustained effort over 2 to 4 years. With continuous consultation with a trained Adviser offering guidance from the outset, the Scout's work and documents will be significantly more likely attain a level of quality and depth to qualify for BSA National review. A Scout presenting a completed binder and application form for a signature without on-going collaboration with mentors and advisors is not likely to meet the rigorous standards in place for a successful submission and review. Please contact Stuart Tucker at stutucker@aol.com if any Scout is interested in pursuing one of these awards.

Opportunities for Service Hours and Eagle Projects

“Guidelines for Scout Community Service and Conservation Projects with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department”

Mecklenburg Park and Recreation Department has developed [new](#) “Guidelines for Scout Community Service and Conservation Projects with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department” in collaboration with Mecklenburg County Council Advancement Committee. Park and Rec welcomes Scouts and units to initiate and execute community service and conservation projects at Park and Recreation facilities, including parks, recreation centers, greenways, nature preserves, historical sites. Lists of these facilities and sites are posted at <https://www.mecknc.gov/ParkandRec/Pages/Home.aspx>

The Guidelines document is posted at

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1upktRobptxVtUwnVHgSnYL_EszT5QzR/view?usp=sharing

ADVANCEMENT NEWS:

Eagle Project Proposal Reviews during COVID-19 (Update as of 10/23/2020) Having moved into Phase Three of the Governor's Plan to reopen North Carolina, the Mecklenburg County Council's Advancement Committee has approved in-person reviews of Eagle Projects. In-person Project Proposal reviews will occur at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church beginning with the November 12 Roundtable day. Reviews will begin at **6:00 p.m.** Please note the new time.

We will not be in a position to accept walk in reviews, so please contact Apache.advancement@gmail.com to schedule the review. Upon receipt of the request for review, the Scout will receive instructions as to how to proceed at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church on the night of the review. The Scout will receive an email with a phone number for notifying the reviewers of their arrival. When a reviewer is prepared for the Scout, the Scout will receive a text letting the Scout that they may proceed into the building. Please do **NOT** enter the building until a text has been received permitting entrance.

Masks will be required at all times while the Scout is in the building. The reviews will be set up in a socially distant manner to minimize the risks. If the Scout or anyone with whom the Scout has been in close contact show COVID infection symptoms, please err do not attend in person.

For those Scouts that do not feel comfortable meeting in person, the Scout is to follow the normal protocol of requesting a review request via email to Apache.advancement@gmail.com. Please note in the email that you are requesting a virtual review. With their email review requests, Scouts may attach their Eagle Project Proposal Workbooks and other documents, such as worksite maps, project construction plans, additional pages with details of any logistics,

and safety plans, as needed. These requests will be distributed periodically to Eagle Project Reviewers. Once a reviewer has been assigned, the reviewer will contact the Scout (with a copy to another adult to maintain 2-deep leadership) to plan a virtual review.

Age-Extension Beyond the 18th Birthday for Eagle Requirements during COVID-19 (Update as of 8/30/20)

The National Council of BSA has issued updated guidelines, which now provide that Local councils will now be given authority by the National Council to grant an additional three-month extension, which will end **December 31, 2020**

National guideline dated 8/30/20 interpreted by the Council Advancement Committee:

- Life Scout turns 18 on 12/15/20
 - o one extension of up to 3-months allowed ending on 3/14/21
 - § Since the extension ends after 12/31/2020, the Council cannot grant another extension
- Life Scout turns 18 between 3/31/20 and 6/30/20
 - o Up to 3 extensions allowed through 12/31/20
 - o The Scout should request an extension up to 3 times – the original and as the first and second expire
 - § The first extension would end 3 months after the 18th birthday and each further extension 3 months thereafter until the extension granted between 10/1/20 and 12/31/20 which would be the last one the council may grant
- Life Scout turns 18 between 9/1/20 and 11/30/20
 - o Up to two extensions allowed
 - o The first extension runs 3 months from the 18th birthday between 9/1/20 and 11/30/20
 - § If the Scout then needs a second extension, then a second 3-months extension request is submitted and approved through a date ending 6 months after the 18th birthday but no later than 2/28/21

NOTE: The 3 month extensions are months and not 90 days and thus a Scout turning 18 on 11/13/20 getting an extension would have until 2/12/21 to complete the Eagle requirements.

Scouts must specifically request age extension beyond 18 to continue pursuing Eagle Scout requirements by submitting an Age-Extension Form, 512-077 (2020 Printing) available at <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-077.pdf>, to Joel Moser, Council Advancement Chair, at joelmoser@earthlink.net.

Eagle Application Packet Processing, Update as of 5/27/2020

With the Council office and Scout Shop now open with its normal operating hours, a Scout or troop leader may drop off a newly completed Eagle application packet during Scout Shop hours. If the Scout or leader is uncomfortable with entering the Scout Shop, he or she should call the Scout Shop number 704 342 9323 when they arrive at the Council office and let Scout Shop Manager Jennifer Adkins know that they have an Eagle packet to leave. She will come out to their car to retrieve the packet. Laura Bachelder of the Council staff will review the application material for completeness and notify the District Eagle Scout Board of Review Coordinator that the application is ready to be picked up.

Eagle Scout Boards of Review, Update as of 5/27/2020

Having moved into Phase 2 of the Governor's Plan to reopen North Carolina, the Mecklenburg County Council's Advancement Committee has approved the following: Effective immediately, in-person Eagle Boards of Review can now be resumed if all parties are comfortable and feel safe following CDC guidelines. Virtual Eagle Boards of Review are an option if in-person Eagle

Boards of Review are not possible. In-person Eagle Boards of Review are encouraged where the situation allows.

The District Advancement Chairs, along with the District Advancement Committees, will immediately start expediting the backlog of Eagle Scout packets submitted to the Scout Office during the COVID shutdown. Also, Eagle Scout packets ready to be turned in may be submitted to the Scout Office during normal working hours.

If units are restricted from their normal EBOR meeting place for COVID reasons and have no other option, the conference rooms at the Scout Office are available. Please contact your District Advancement Chair, or District Director, to reserve a date and space at the Scout Office for your EBOR.

Utilization of outdoor facilities such as public parks where one might have access to picnic tables and benches is another option.

After an Eagle Board, a District Eagle Board Reviewer can return the signed Eagle application and all letters of recommendation to the Council office by following the same schedule and process.

Updates for Rank Advancement/Camping Requirements in COVID-19 FAQ

BSA National has added temporary changes to rank requirements.

<https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus/covid-19-faq/>

Blue Card and Advancement Report Processing

Advancement reports (with supporting blue cards and/or summer camp advancement reports) can be mailed in or dropped off at any time in the mail slot at the back door of the office (the mail slot is 1.5 inches tall) Although many troops use Scoutbook for advancement reports, some may use the BSA Advancement form as posted

at <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34403.pdf> . Blue cards are very strongly recommended to all Scouts and to all troops because blue card records can be invaluable to confirm merit badges for Star, Life, and especially for Eagle Boards of Review.

After the Scout Shop receives the reports and cards, processing may take up to 7 to 10 business days. Troop leaders should please include contact information so that the Scout Shop can call when reports and blue cards are ready for pickup. Pickup can occur during curbside Scout Shop hours, currently Tuesdays and Fridays from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. If leaders would like to purchase badges, they can note it with the packet delivery or can email a copy of the advancement report to Scout Shop Manager Jennifer Adkins

at jennifer.adkins@scouting.org so that badges can be pulled for curbside pickup. Costs for badges can be deducted from unit Scout Shop accounts with express permission from an authorized user or can be paid for by credit card.

Signatures for advancements

All advancement reports require at least one signature. If any ranks 1st Class and above are listed on the report, 3 signatures are still required. Unit leaders can send e-signatures by email to Council Program Assistant Laura Bachelder at laura.bachelder@scouting.org

How to conduct a board of review through videoconferencing

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/03/16/how-to-conduct-a-board-of-review-through-videoconferencing/>

The Mecklenburg County Council Advancement Committee has endorsed and approved Boards of Review conducted through videoconferencing.

Digital Safety and Online Scouting Activities

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/digital-safety-and-online-scouting-activities/>

Updated Merit Badges

Scouts BSA has updated requirements for several merit badges for 2020. The full list of 137 merit badges and their current requirements are available at

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>.

As always, Scouts that have already started working on a merit badge when revised requirements and a new edition of the pamphlet are introduced, *they may continue to follow the old requirements and use the same pamphlet to earn the badge*. They need not start over again with revised requirements and the new pamphlet.

Volunteers Needed – Eagle Projects and Eagle Boards of Review

Last year 120 Scouts in the Apache District earned their Eagle Rank. In addition, a similar number of Scouts presented had their Eagle Project Proposals to members of the District Advancement Committee for their review of the projects prior to the Scout's commencement of their project. As Scouting grows in the Apache District, so does our need for Project Proposal reviewers and Eagle Board reviewers. Project Proposal reviews occur on Roundtable nights on the second Thursday of each month at St. Vincent de Paul Church beginning at 6:00 p.m. Eagle Boards of Review are usually scheduled on troop meeting nights with the respective Scoutmasters. We will provide the necessary guidance and training. For those interested, please email the Apache Advancement Chair, Dean Elledge at apache.advancement@gmail.com.

Eagle Application Packets with Complete Merit Badge Advancement Records Requested

Life Scouts and Troop Advancement Chairs: please include a printout of a Scout's advancement record from Scoutbook or from the Scout's ScoutNet profile from the Council office, including all merit badges earned, in the Eagle Application Packet that goes to Council. These records will allow the Troop and the Council to promptly process recognition of the Scout with Eagle Palms, if the Scout qualifies.

For further Advancement information, please contact your Apache District Advancement Chair or visit <https://www.mccscouting.org/advancement> or <https://www.mccscouting.org/eagle-scouts>

Eagle Board of Review Questions

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2012/09/14/20-questions-to-ask-at-your-next-eagle-board-of-review/>

Tools for Eagle Projects

Charlotte ToolBank provides inexpensive access to tools for group projects.

<https://charlotte.toolbank.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWqwzlkJWv8>

Scouts and units may also borrow tools from Belk Scout Camp for service and conservation projects.

From the Pond

Fishing and Fly Fishing Merit Badge Counselor Guides

<http://bsacai.org/news/9270910>

[Fishing MB Counselor Guide](#)

[Fly Fishing MB Counselor Guide](#)

Merit Badge Counselor Registrations

If you are not a merit badge counselor or need to renew, please visit the Council's Advancement page at <https://www.mccscouting.org/advancement> Please remember that all Merit Badge Counselors need to renew annually, usually in November.

FISH ON!!!

Outing in Scouting

Long distance trails in NC

<https://www.charlotteobserver.com/news/state/north-carolina/article239278463.html?intcid=connatix>

Subscribe for free printable USGS Topo maps

<https://www.natgeomaps.com/trail-maps/pdf-quads>

NEW - On a cold winter evening, bring Dutch oven cooking and baking to your Scouts:

Intro to Dutch oven cooking

<http://www.bsatroop540.com/camping-recipes/>

Dessert recipes

<http://www.bsatroop540.com/camping-recipes/dessert/>

Scouting at Home

NEW - Preparing presentation materials for virtual learning?

Please check out BSA Brand Guidelines at

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/310-0231.pdf>

specifically, page 12 for information on the BSA blue activity graphic,

page 29 for graphics for PowerPoint slides, and page 46 for typefaces.

BSA PowerPoint templates are at <https://scouting.webdamdb.com/bp/#/folder/4591006/>

BSA Activity Graphic is at <https://scouting.webdamdb.com/bp/#/folder/4839613/>

Merit badges for social distancing: 58 badges Scouts can complete at home

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/03/20/merit-badges-for-social-distancing/>

Movies that Scouts might watch to fulfill merit badge requirements

Three merit badges include requirements that can be fulfilled by watching movies:

American Heritage

American Labor

Citizenship in the Community

Below are links to lists of movies that may be applicable to requirements from each of these merit badges. Before a Scout watches any of these movies or any other movie, whether for merit badge work or for school or for entertainment, the Scout must receive permission from their parents. Before a Scout watches any movie for merit badge work, the Scout must also have permission from their merit badge counselor.

American Heritage, requirement 5a

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/American_Heritage.pdf

5. Do ONE of the following: (a) Watch two motion pictures (with the approval and permission of your counselor and parent) that are set in some period of American history. Describe to your counselor how accurate each film is with regard to the historical events depicted and also with regard to the way the characters are portrayed.

<https://www.scouter.com/topic/10805-movie-ideas-for-american-heritage/?page=2>

American Labor, requirement 5c

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/American_Labor.pdf

5. Do ONE of the following:

(c) With your counselor's and parent's approval and permission, watch a movie that addresses organized labor in the United States. Afterward, discuss the movie with your counselor and explain what you learned.

<https://www.imdb.com/list/ls031955974/>

Citizenship in the Community, requirement 5

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Citizenship_in_the_Community.pdf

5. With the approval of your counselor and a parent, watch a movie that shows how the actions of one individual or group of individuals can have a positive effect on a community. Discuss with your counselor what you learned from the movie about what it means to be a valuable and concerned member of the community.

<http://www.eaglecoach.org/merit-badges/citizenship-in-the-community-movie-list/>

<http://www.eaglecoach.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Citizenship-in-the-Community-Acceptable-Movies.pdf>

<https://scoutermom.com/1244/movies-for-citizenship-in-the-community-merit-badge/>

http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Citizenship_in_the_Community#Movies_With_a_Meaning

100 movies that every Scout should see, a list published by *Boys' Life*. (Some suggestions will require parental guidance.)

<https://boyslife.org/hobbies-projects/funstuff/18651/100-movies-for-kids/>

100 books that every Scout should read, a list published by Boys' Life. (Some suggestions will require parental guidance.)

<https://boyslife.org/hobbies-projects/funstuff/18215/100-books-for-kids/>

Remote Scouting

<http://www.scoutshare.org/>

APACHE DISTRICT NEWS AND EVENTS:

Attention: Lion, Tiger, Wolf, and Bear Dens

Apache Spring Cuboree at Camp Grimes

April 16-18, 2021, Friday-Saturday-Sunday

COUNCIL NEWS AND EVENTS:

Scout Shop News

First aid kit supplies and survival kit supplies are available in the Mecklenburg County Council Scout Shop so that dens, patrols, and individual Scouts have resources for these advancement requirements:

Webelos First Responder requirement # 6. Put together a simple home first-aid kit. Explain what you included and how to use each item correctly.

Webelos Walkabout requirement # 2. Assemble a first-aid kit suitable for your hike or activity.

Tenderfoot requirement # 4d. Assemble a personal first-aid kit to carry with you on future campouts and hikes. Tell how each item in the kit would be used.

First Aid Merit Badge requirement # 5. Do the following:

(a) Prepare a first-aid kit for your home. Display and discuss its contents with your counselor.

(b) With an adult leader, inspect your troop's first-aid kit. Evaluate it for completeness. Report your findings to your counselor and Scout leader

Webelos-AOL Castaway Requirement # 2. Do all of the following.

A. Learn what items should be in an outdoor survival kit that you can carry in a small bag or box in a day pack. Assemble your own small survival kit, and explain to your den leader why the items you chose are important for survival.

First Aid Skill - What is a "ring string"?

A ring string is used to compress swelling from a finger where a ring is stuck and otherwise cannot be removed. Swelling might occur from arthritis, trauma, infection, burn, or medical conditions like heart or kidney diseases that cause fluid retention. A ring string could be string, a strand of paracord core, fishing line, dental floss, sewing thread, narrow ribbon, a rubber band. A ring string can be wrapped from fingertip toward the ring to force swelling under the ring. A tooth pick, a rounded end of a safety pin, a pen tip cover, or other fine blunt probe can be used to push the string beneath the ring. By gently pulling on the end of the string passing beneath the ring, the ring string unwinds off the finger and pushes the ring toward the fingertip where it is removed. If swelling is only partially improved by the first wrapping, the wrapping and removal process can be repeated. Applying hand lotion or cooking oil or soap as lubrication to the swollen finger can allow the ring to slide off more easily.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrDROoJAF4I>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6MjZExWmvs>

Adult Volunteer Registration and Renewals

BSA National now requires an updated Background Check Form to be submitted with each new Adult Application (along with BSA Youth Protection certificate) and with each adult registration renewal for rechartering units, merit badge counselors, districts and councils. Here are links to information and forms:

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/se-packet/2019-09-30/Background-Check-Disclosure.pdf>

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/se-packet/2019-09-30/Additional-Disclosures-And-Background-Check-Authorization-NOT-CALIFORNIA.pdf>

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2019/10/14/rechecks-of-criminal-backgrounds-explained/>

Attention: Lion, Tiger, Wolf, Bear, Webelos Dens

2021 Cub Day Camps

June 7 - June 11, Monday – Friday	Etowah + Hornets Nest Day Camp at Belk Scout Camp
June 21 - June 25, Monday – Friday	Apache Day Camp at Belk Scout Camp
	Theme is "Weird Science"

NEW Attention: Bear and Webelos Dens

2021 Webelos Adventure Camp (WAC) Sessions at Belk Scout Camp

July 8 - July 11, Thursday – Sunday	Session 1
July 11 - July 14, Sunday – Wednesday	Session 2
July 15 - July 18, Thursday – Sunday	Session 3

Attention: AOL Dens, Scouts BSA Troops, Summer Camp Staff

2021 Camp Grimes Dates and Deadlines

<https://www.mycampgrimes.org/dates.phtml?ver=5>

September 15, 2020	Staff Employment Applications Accepted
January 15, 2021	Troop Camper Deposits Due - \$20.00 per Scout
April 15	Campership Applications Due
May 1	Balance of Camp Fees Due

May 5	OA Beaver Days Registration Deadline
May 14-15-16	OA Beaver Days
June 6 - June 11	Staff Week
June 13 - June 19	Week 1
June 20 - June 26	Week 2
June 27 - July 3	Week 3
July 4 - July 10	Week 4
July 11 - July 17	Week 5

Visible Commitment to the Welfare of the Community and Organizations

If your organization or business is interested in starting an Exploring Post or simply wants to learn more about the program and perhaps support as a consultant to one of our Posts, please contact Monica Zeleznik at Monica.Zeleznik@scouting.org.

Exploring builds familiarity and trust between communities and organizations by engaging youth and creating opportunities for regular and positive interactions, sharing a mutual interest and getting to know each other in a setting that offers a benefit for the community.

Post sponsors benefit by creating a culture of motivated, knowledgeable, and properly educated future employees while creating a positive impact on the education of youth and families.

BSA Annual Health and Medical Record (AHMR)

BSA has revised the AHMR set for health forms with Parts A, B1, B2, and C. The new forms are available here:

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

BSA does not permit a website to host any version, even a blank version, of the AHMR; rather, websites can show the link to the current form.

Frequently Asked Questions are available here:

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/medical-formfaqs/>

Other questions may be directed by email to the Health & Safety Team at Health.Safety@scouting.org

Information on How to Review the AHMR is available here:

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/how-to-review-the-ahmr/>

AHMR Safety Moment:

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/annual-health-and-medical-record/>

Bryan on Scouting

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2019/12/10/theres-an-updated-annual-health-and-medical-record-to-use-for-2020/>

National Scouting

Scouting magazine news

The print version of *Scouting* magazine ended with the May-June 2020 issue.

A brand-new *Scouting* magazine app is available now in the App Store and Google Play.

The digital edition for September/ October is available at

<https://scoutingmagazine.org/>

BSA High Adventure Base reservations

Northern Tier

<https://www.ntier.org/reservations/2020-2021-reservations/>

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/10/28/2021-2022-preview-northern-tier-national-high-adventure/>

Philmont

<https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/registersection/>

Reservations for the 2021 season are now locked while those crews displaced by closure in 2020 are rescheduled. When that is complete, wait listed and new registrations for summer of 2021 will be opened. Registrations for the 2022 season will open this fall and the annual lottery held.

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/10/30/2021-2022-preview-philmont-scout-ranch/>

Sea Base

<https://reservations.scouting.org/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x123387abcd>

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/10/27/2021-2022-preview-florida-national-high-adventure-sea-base/>

Summit Bechtel Reserve

<https://www.summitbsa.org/programs/national-high-adventure-base/high-adventure-overview/>

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/10/29/2021-2022-preview-paul-r-christen-high-adventure-base-at-summit-bechtel-reserve/>

International Scouting

<https://www.scouting.org/international/events/>

July 17-28, 2021, Central Florida Council International Scouting Jamboree

<https://jamborette.wordpress.com>

August 1-12, 2023, 25th World Scout Jamboree, Saemangeum, South Korea

<http://www.2023wsjkorea.org/html/2023wsj.html>

European Scout Voluntary Program

<https://www.scouting.org/international/ecamp/>

Participants must be 18 to 30 years old and must commit to serve on camp staff in Europe for at least 6 weeks.

Kandersteg International Scout Centre

<https://www.kisc.ch/>

International BSA Blog

<https://www.scouting.org/international/international-adventure/>

ORDER OF THE ARROW – APACHE CHAPTER

Link your Lodge Email to your Personal Email

Some of you may not know how to access your Lodge email account, or may be unaware that you have one. You can find instructions on forwarding all of your Lodge emails to your personal email account at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwrGkVVw08OudS1xSHZlb1RSS1U/view?usp=sharing>

Please follow these instructions to keep up on Lodge Events.

OA High Adventure Opportunities

Summer, 2021

OA Canadian Odyssey (Northern Tier)

OA Ocean Adventure (Florida Sea Base)

OA Summit Experience (Summit Bechtel Reserve)

OA Trail Crew (Philmont Scout Ranch)
OA Wilderness Voyage (Northern Tier)
<https://oa-bsa.org/high-adventure>

OA, Southern Region, 2020 National Leadership Seminars (NLS) (for youth)

<http://southern.oa-bsa.org/nls/>

Sept 24-26, 2021, Orlando, FL

Nov 12-14, 2021, BSA National Office, Irving, TX

Dec 10-12, 2021, Greensboro, NC

OA, Southern Region, 2020 Developing Youth Leadership Conferences (DYLC) (for advisers)

<http://southern.oa-bsa.org/dylc/>

Sept 24-26, 2021, Orlando, FL

Nov 12-14, 2021, BSA National Office, Irving, TX

Dec 10-12, 2021, Greensboro, NC

TRAINING

<https://www.scoutshop.org/trained-leader-strip-280.html>

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33066/33066_Training_Awards_WEB.pdf

“Trained” Patches for Youth Leaders

Scout youth leaders who have completed Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST), den chiefs (Scouts, Sea Scouts, or Venturers) who have completed Den Chief Training, and Venturing youth leaders who have completed the Crew Officers Orientation or Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews (ILSC) may wear the Trained Leader emblem with their badge of office.

Den Chief training is available online at

<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth/den-chief-training/>

ILST and ILSC are available online at

<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth/>

Youth should print their certificates to present to unit leaders for facilitate record keeping.

“Trained” Patches for Adult Leaders

Adults leaders can find requirements for earning their trained patches at

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/training/pdf/Trained_Leader_Positions.pdf

along with references to online training courses available at <https://my.scouting.org>

Another resource is <https://www.scouting.org/training/adult/>

Online District Committee training is available.

NEW - National Youth Leader Training (NYLT, AKA “Top Gun”)

<http://topgun.mcc-bsa.org/home-1>

The next MCC NYLT course is tentatively scheduled for June 2021 (exact date TBD) with registration for this course opening January 1, 2021.

National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE) at Philmont

<https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc/nayle/>

National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience (NAYLE) at Summit

<https://www.summitbsa.org/programs/training/seven-day-conferences/nayle/>

**Philmont Training Center 2021 Conferences [for adult volunteer training]
BSA Family Adventure Camp**

<https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc/2020-conferences/>

BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation) [for adults] at Belk Scout Camp

BALOO is an introduction to the Cub Scout outdoor program.

The last course on Saturday-Sunday, November 14-15 was very successful.

Prerequisite online training is accessed through <https://my.scouting.org/>

Information on future courses will be posted at

<https://sites.google.com/site/bsamcctraining/baloo>

SEALS and **IOLS** courses at Belk Scout Camp are planned for the second weekend of March and for the second weekend in November on an ongoing basis.

<https://sites.google.com/site/bsamcctraining/>

SEALS - Scouts Excited About Leadership Skills [for youth] at Belk Scout Camp

Next SEALS course: Friday-Saturday-Sunday, March 12-13-14, 2021

<https://sites.google.com/site/mccseals/home>

Next SEALS course: Friday-Saturday-Sunday, November 12-14, 2021

IOLS - Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills [for adults] at Belk Scout Camp

Next IOLS course: Saturday-Sunday, March 13-14, 2021

<https://sites.google.com/site/outdoorleaderskillsmcc/home>

Wilderness First Aid

Wilderness First Aid courses at Camp Grimes are planned for the last weekend of March and for the last weekend in September on an on-going basis. Please check often at

<https://sites.google.com/site/bsamcctraining/>

for information on course dates and registration.

The next course is scheduled for February 12-13 at Belk Scout Camp.

College of Commissioner Science training

Mecklenburg County Council will host virtual training for Commissioner on February 27, 2021.

Sign up deadline is February 15. For a link to on-line registration, please click on

<https://sites.google.com/site/bsamcctraining/>

MCC Wood Badge S5-415-20 at Belk Scout Camp

<https://sites.google.com/site/s5415woodbadge/home>

Wood Badge S5-415-20 is scheduled at Belk Scout Camp, starting on **Friday, March 26, 2021 at 7:00 am through Sunday, March 28, 2021 at 5:00 pm and Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 7:00 am through Sunday, April 18, 2021 at 5:00 pm.**

<https://sites.google.com/site/s5415woodbadge/home>

COPE and Climbing Instructor Level 1 training

April 30-May 2, 2021 at Belk Scout Camp

For more information, please click on

<https://sites.google.com/site/bsamcctraining/cope-climbing-instructor-training>

Square Knots

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2017/02/17/scouting-service-award-combines-five-awards-into-one-cool-new-square-knot/>

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2019/07/17/square-knot-rankings-what-are-the-most-and-least-awarded-square-knots/>

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2012/11/20/in-the-loop-a-guide-to-square-knots-and-how-to-wear-them/>

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2011/03/04/alumni-knot/>

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2017/03/15/how-to-tell-if-your-scouting-square-knot-is-upside-down/>

<https://scoutingmagazine.org/issues/0901/a-knots.html>

<https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/community-organization-award/>

<https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/lifesaving-meritorious-action/>

<https://www.scouting.org/awards/hornaday-awards/>

<https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/religious-emblems/>

<https://www.scouting.org/awards/religious-awards/>

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-879_WB.pdf

<https://nesa.org/for-eagle-scouts/awards-and-recognition/>

Spread the Word About Scouting

Please don't keep us a secret

With all the new parents coming into our Scouting family, please don't keep Smoke Signals and the Apache District Webpage a secret. We welcome new subscribers and it is easy to subscribe. Also, please help us by sharing these links:

Apache District Webpage

<https://www.mccscouting.org/apache>

Like the Apache Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/ApacheDistrict>

Apache Twitter Account

Be sure to follow us on twitter @ApacheDistrict

Mecklenburg County Council

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

<https://www.facebook.com/MeckBSA/>

<https://www.instagram.com/mccscouting/>

Like the Mecklenburg County Council Merit Badge Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/MCCBSAMB>

Like the Mecklenburg County Council STEM Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/MCCBSASTEM/>

BSA National

Scouting Wire Volunteer Newsletter - The Official Blog of the Scouting Movement.

<http://scoutingwire.org>

Bryan on Scouting is the official blog of Scouting magazine, a Boy Scouts of America publication. The blog post is sent as one email per weekday. To subscribe, please go to <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/contact/>

To Submit News or an Announcement to Apache District Smoke Signals e-newsletter:

If you have any news or events or links that you would like to share Apache District leaders, please send that information to stutucker@aol.com for editing, publication, and distribution. Please include your contact information for follow up questions.

To Subscribe to Mecklenburg County Council Backpack e-newsletter:

Please go to <https://www.mccscouting.org/>

Scroll to the bottom of the page, fill in your "Name" and "Email Address", then Click on the blue "Subscribe Now" bar.

To Subscribe or Unsubscribe to Apache District Smoke Signals e-newsletter:

Subscribe: If this E-Newsletter was forwarded to you and if you are not on our list and if you would like to be added, then please send a blank e-mail with subject "Smoke Signals Subscribe" to: al@nedrich.com from the e-mail address you want subscribed. We do not need any additional information.

Unsubscribe: Just send an e-mail with "Smoke Signals Unsubscribe" in the subject line to al@nedrich.com from the e-mail address you want unsubscribed.

Apache District Marketing Committee
704 333 0001