Retention Convention Online in 2020

Now is the time to start thinking about your program for the upcoming Scouting season just a few short months away. Hoosier Trails Council would like to help you get things kicked off at a great event designed to give you the materials you need and the support you want. We will be going over all of the new programs available for all Scouting units, new ways to support your members and leaders, tips on recruiting, and much more. This is a great way to start your year and its fun too. Due the coronavirus sequestering, we will be producing a training video for leaders to collect the needed resources to plan their Ideal Year of Scouting. The video and tools will be made available on May 12th at www.HoosierTrailsBSA.org. Feel free to invite leaders from your group no matter how long they have been in the program because new things are added all the time.

Scouting from Home

In recent weeks Scouting’s programming has moved online and we have developed new tools to help families to sequester at home and continue to have Scouting adventures. Weekly, online advancement opportunities are rolled out. Virtual Merit Badge Fairs have occurred. Presently, we are pulling together a Stay at Home Camporee and details will be made available soon at https://www.hoosiertraileisbsa.org/2552

There are several Scouting, general education and exploration links provided on this newly developed resource page that is designed to help pass the time at home in a meaningful way. As new programming is rolled out, it will be featured on this page and families are encouraged to use this advancement/adventure opportunity throughout the summer.

Scouting from Home is a great way to stay engaged and continue down the path toward advancements.

Council Gala Rescheduled - August 30th

Hoosier Trails Council rescheduled its annual Leader Recognition Gala for August 30th at the Seasons Lodge in beautiful Nashville to recognize adult leaders for outstanding service to the council, units, and their community. We will be recognizing the Silver Beaver Award recipients, our highest honor, along with many other awards. We will also be congratulating our 2019 Eagle Scouts for their outstanding accomplishments. Please do not miss this opportunity to come celebrate and recognize our fellow leaders for great achievement. Pre-Registration is strongly encouraged by August 26th to ensure that everyone has a meal choice. Save time and hassle by using our online registration system through www.HoosierTrailsBSA.org and select the event from the online calendar. No refunds will be given for cancellations.
—From the Scout Executive’s Desk—

Scout Executive, Glen R. Steenberger

These are interesting times! Many of us have become proficient at video-conferencing, looking to the internet to stay engaged in school work, or Scouting advancements, and in other ways trying to stay connected during this time of isolation. One can plug into the non-stop media accounts on the coronavirus pandemic and easily become overwhelmed by the state of our society, our economy, and the fear associated with getting things back to normal.

Personally, I like to focus upon what I can control; rather than worrying about things that are beyond my reach. Ironically, at the first of the year, I set my computer log-in password as “BePrepared2020” (I have since updated it). Little did I know that our motto was going to be so vital to day-to-day life as the year progressed. I learned early in life that things don’t always go as planned and that sometimes there is chaos; however, I can always strive to be prepared to address deviations in a plan, or to help minimize chaos and the things that are outside of my control.


In 1907, Baden-Powell, an English soldier, devised the Scout motto: Be Prepared. He published it in Scouting for Boys in 1908. (Two years later, in 1910, the Boy Scouts of America was founded.) In Scouting for Boys, Baden-Powell wrote that to Be Prepared means “you are always in a state of readiness in mind and body to do your duty.” More than a century later, preparedness is still a cornerstone of Scouting. Through its fun, values-based program, Scouting prepares young people for life.

In the late 1900s, Baden-Powell wanted young people equipped to react quickly to an emergency. The Great War loomed, and soon the Boy Scouts — not a military organization but a service-minded one — would be called upon to play their part. “Their keen eyes were added to the watchers along the coasts,” Winston Churchill wrote in a piece published in Scouting magazine in 1955. “In the air raids we saw the spectacle of children of 12 and 14 performing with perfect coolness and composure the useful function assigned to them in the streets and public offices.”

But Baden-Powell wasn’t just thinking about first aid and wartime emergencies when he coined the motto. This is from the 13th/latest edition of the Boy Scout Handbook:

His idea was that Scouts should prepare themselves to become productive citizens and strong leaders and to bring joy to other people. He wanted each Scout to be ready in mind and body and to meet with a strong heart whatever challenges await him.

As we work to get our lives back to some form of normalcy, how can you be better prepared for chaos or challenges that lay on the path ahead? Be Prepared, two words that bring upon a comforted state of being.

Honored to be your Scout Executive,

[Signature]

PS: Images are from my Footstep of the Founder trip earlier this year in Gilwell Park.
Enabling Great Programs

Friends of Scouting

We have experienced financial struggles as a society and as a result our Friends of Scouting campaign is running behind this year. Help to keep us on the path of providing life-changing adventures to youth and make your gift to the 2020 Friends of Scouting campaign. Your support enables quality customer service to Scouts and Scout units, provides insurance for our programs, maintains our camping properties, supports record-keeping and other back office support, enables marketing and communications, provides safety net to insure Scouting happens for all families, regardless of financial health, underwrites a portion of council and district program events, literally keeps the lights on and in many other ways drives the Hoosier Trails Council, BSA. Thanks for your consideration of at least sponsoring the cost of one Scout in 2020, which is $166.

INDIANA
BP 0000
BOY SCOUTS

These plates can be used as standard vehicle registration plates for passenger cars, recreational vehicles and trucks weighing less than 11,000 pounds. Your plate selection is good until your next registration renewal. When you purchase an Indiana Boy Scouting license plate, you indicate your personal support of Scouting and add financially to the Hoosier Trails Council Endowment.

How can you participate? When you renew your plates, an additional fee is added on to your basic renewal fees, and that money is contributed to the Hoosier Trails Council endowment fund. Renew Plates Online: Currently, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles offers Online Registration for your vehicle. Once you create an account, you can choose your specialized license plate. It’s fast, easy and best of all - no standing in line!

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Donate your vehicle and Support Scouting

One Car on a Difference

OneCarHelpsScouts.com

1973 Society

A recognition program has been set up to support the 2020 Friends of Scouting campaign, the 1973 Society. You see, our council was incorporated in, you guessed it, 1973. This program establishes a three year commitment from a donor to support the society through a planned annual gift amount, which can be fulfilled in various ways. This program is designed for those faithful supporters that contribute to FOS annually and allows the council to focus upon identifying new donors; rather than renewing gifts. For more information: Glen.Steenberger@scouting.org

Memorials & Tributes

Dale Stelting
Albert, Carol, Robert & Joe Drake
James & Dagmar Molebash
Alan & Tami Schwenk
Gary & Robin Hilber
Steven & Mary Wilson
Diana Black
Linda & Linda Grimsley
Paul Cronen
John & Patricia Zeigler

Joseph Markel
Hoosier Beemers, Inc

A gift to our council’s memorial/tribute fund is a thoughtful way to express respect, gratitude, and sincere affection. Your gift honoring a loved one, friend, and others in times of sadness or joy will enrich the lives of the thousands of youth served by our council.
Join Scout Night Training @ HoosierTrailsBSA.org

A successful fall membership campaign begins at the Join Scouts Night Training, which will be offered online, starting in June of 2020. Fall recruitment is primarily focused on Cub Scouts but what does a Cub Scout become? Yes, a member of Scouts BSA and what better way to help the pack that feeds into your troop but to join in the excitement and fun of Cub Scout recruiting. Last year we welcomed Family Scouting in many of our Cub Scout Packs, and earlier this year we opened the older Scout program to all genders in Scout BSA. This this an important change in recruitment and we must be ready to give all the new families the greatest program on Earth. Upon completing the Online Join Scouts Night Training units will be provided with: posters, application, and yard signs. We will discuss the community marketing approach and the important 7 points of contact to make it a successful fall. The county “join weeks” will be scheduled as it was last year and we will need to enlist the help of volunteers to assist with the school talks; volunteers to spend 2 hours prior to the join week in your county to get the word out in your community; and where needed, help support us at the schools on the official county wide join night and open houses. Last year we had an amazing team of adults and youth talking to the youth in the schools so with that success we want to build on utilizing the youth in our troops to interact with the Cub Scouts. Attendance at the Join Scouts Night Training is required for all units to qualify for Platinum JTE in 2020 so please make special plans to send at least one representative from your unit to attend this training and capitalize on the recruitment theme this year.

Join Cub Scouts!

Recent HTC Eagle Scouts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Troop</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexander James Farrar</td>
<td>Troop 557</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samuel Nathan Couper</td>
<td>Troop 170</td>
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<tr>
<td>Logan Andrew Bridges</td>
<td>Troop 119</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conor Charles Boyer</td>
<td>Troop 219</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dylan Lucas Peters</td>
<td>Troop 526</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicholas William Stright</td>
<td>Troop 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyler Durand Allen</td>
<td>Troop 506</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brandon Daniel Lee Wells</td>
<td>Troop 506</td>
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<tr>
<td>Owen Nathan Chandler</td>
<td>Troop 529</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chase Alan Rogers</td>
<td>Troop 529</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Lee Howard</td>
<td>Troop 481</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cameron James Dewees</td>
<td>Troop 180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trever Derek Allender</td>
<td>Troop 193</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Ganka Collins</td>
<td>Troop 121</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evan Alexander Shaw</td>
<td>Troop 121</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenyon Matthew Guenther</td>
<td>Troop 566</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Thomas Burkart Jr.</td>
<td>Troop 120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bailey Scott Knapp</td>
<td>Troop 140</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garrett Thomas Baker</td>
<td>Troop 180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zackery Allen Chambers</td>
<td>Troop 644</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jack Gildea</td>
<td>Troop 120</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Telford Francis</td>
<td>Troop 120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jack Likens</td>
<td>Troop 552</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cade Dewayne Maschino</td>
<td>Troop 495</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alex James Malone</td>
<td>Troop 464</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Theodore Brownfield</td>
<td>Troop 457</td>
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<tr>
<td>August Mullins</td>
<td>Troop 148</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timothy Alexander Lam</td>
<td>Troop 148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Petras Cerniglia</td>
<td>Troop 634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zebediah James Gibson</td>
<td>Troop 557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethan David Cantrell</td>
<td>Troop 100</td>
</tr>
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**Commissioner Corner:**

**Journey to Excellence: “How Your Unit Can Achieve Gold Level Award for 2020”**

One of the Unit Commissioner’s primary role is to assist every Scout leader to be successful in the management and functioning of their Scout unit. The Scouting BSA program provides unit leaders with standard guidance to help them measure their success by way of the Journey to Excellence (JTE).

The JTE program is an annual report that measures the strength and performance of every Scout unit, which includes: Cub Pack, Scout Troop, Venture Crew, District and Council level organizations. Scout units are recognized by earning the Gold, Silver or Bronze award based on its performance by following the policies and guidelines established by the National Scout office during the calendar year.

Below, lists each award level based on a unit’s annual performance:
- BRONZE (Satisfactory) - SILVER (Excellent) - GOLD (Outstanding)

Separate evaluation criteria are established for each unit level and the award for JTE is based on continuous improvement made by the Scout unit. On the JTE form, there are eleven performance items that are assessed and then scored based on unit’s overall performance. A unit’s award level is based the total score given based on the four key areas below:

- Planning and Budget
- Membership
- Programs
- Volunteer Leadership

Scout leaders in HTC are consistently observed preparing and running great Scout programs for our youth, so it is important that you be recognized for your unit’s outstanding performance.

Here are tips to get you started to earn the JTE Gold level award this year:

- Unit leaders should meet with their Unit Commissioner, “early”, to review the JTE form and their JTE unit assessment from last year. From your review, discuss what goals you would like to establish and achieve this year
- Unit leaders are advised to designate their Committee Chairperson to oversee and manage the unit goals as they are achieved, in accordance with the criteria listed on the JTE form
- It is recommended that the Committee Chair, Unit Leader and Unit Commissioner meet every other month to review all progress made for each JTE goal listed
- At the end of the calendar year, when the Unit Re-charter is due, the Unit Leader, Committee Chair and Commissioner should conduct a final review of the JTE form, prepare it for completion and submit it to the Scout Service Center.

**Goal:** “Let’s make it our goal to strive and to achieve the Gold level award in your unit this year for Journey to Excellence!”

- Muscatatuck District: Marissa Souza, marissa.a.souza@cummins.com
- White River Trails District: Frank Dixon, scoutmaster481@gmail.com
- Wapehani District: Randy Cox, bluegill@scican.net

Lindsey A. Smith
Council Commissioner
LindseyASmith614@gmail.com

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**James E. West Fellowship Award**

This award is recognition for support of the Hoosier Trails Council, BSA Endowment Fund of $1,000 or greater. There are various levels of the award, depending upon the size of the gift. The council’s endowment fund provides annual operational support to the council from the earnings of the gifts made to the fund, which are held in perpetuity. James E. West Fellowships are a tremendous way to honor a new Eagle Scout, outstanding Scout leader, or other significant life events. This win-win stabilizes the success of our annual youth programming, while recognizing greatness. For more information, contact Glen.Steenberger@scouting.org.
Training
Our training efforts council wide continue to see progress being made in our trained Direct Contact Leaders. We are working hard to ensure that all direct contact leaders are trained for the position that they hold. This is vitally important because new ideas and methods are being promoted all the time and this give you an opportunity to keep up on Scouting’s latest information. This is a great time to complete your training as most of them are offered online along with many other trainings that you may find helpful.

Youth Protection Training Updates:
Over the decades, the Boy Scouts of America has been a leader in developing training and policies designed to keep young people safe. These policies have become standard with organizations across the nation. We have recently released updates to the online Youth Protection Training to include:
- Reduced size of videos in the modules with subtitling for the closed caption which should improve the video performance
- Links inserted at various points in the modules for directly accessing the Guide to Safe Scouting and Youth Protection page on scouting.org

As advocates and champions for youth protection in the Scouting movement, we encourage you to keep your YPT up to date, stay familiar with the resource documents, and spread the word. The same types of updates are in progress for the recommended modules and we will soon release the updated Facilitator Led version of the mandatory training. Thank you for your work in sharing the message of safety in Scouting. Truly, Youth Protection begins with You.

Wood Badge:
Wood Badge is still on! This is an exciting, action-packed program over two weekends, August 14-16 and September 4-5 (new and improved 5-day course), designed to provide adult leaders with skills and experience they can use in their Scouting positions and in other situations demanding leadership of self and others. At home, at work, and on the trail, the Wood Badge course centers upon the concepts of leadership that we see every day. It is your turn to leave a legacy. The key elements are then taught with a clear focus on “how to.” These skills come alive during the weekends as your patrol completes goals based upon what you have learned. All these things are done while creating new bonds of friendship and support that span unit, district, council, and movement. No matter your position in Scouting or the type of unit you belong too, this course is certainly for you. Come and take your place and experience the highest level of training available in the Boy Scouts of America. Registration is open now and you can reserve your spot today at www.HoosierTrailsBSA.org.

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)
NYLT is an exciting, action-packed program designed to provide youth members in Scouts BSA or a Venture Crew with leadership skills and experience they can use in their home, school, units, and in other situations demanding leadership of self and others. The NYLT course centers around the concepts of what a leader must BE, what they must KNOW, and what they must DO. The key elements are then taught with a clear focus on HOW TO. The skills come alive during the week as the patrol goes on a quest for the meaning of leadership. Through a wide range of activities, games, and adventures, participants will work and play together as they put into action the best Scouting has to offer. NYLT will be conducted June 26-July 4, 2020. Fees are $295 when paid prior to June 15th, $325 thereafter.

Wilderness First Aid Training—Red Cross:
Even though we needed to cancel this in the spring, we have another opportunity coming up this fall. Wilderness First Aid is open to any Scout (at least 14 years old, First Class Rank recommended) or Scout leader who is proficient in basic first aid skills AND holds a current certification in American Red Cross CPR with AED or the equivalent. We are hosting an advanced first aid course designed to teach skills necessary for providing care to victims of illness or injury in a setting where professional help is delayed (the woods/high adventure). Whether you are a Scout, an outdoor enthusiast or you work in a remote environment, our Wilderness and Remote First Aid Course gives you the skills you need to respond to an emergency when help may be a long ways out. Join us on October 9-11.
Cub-O-Ree Adventure

STILL ON! Celebrate the best of what Cub Scouts has to offer and enjoy the beautiful setting of Maumee Scout Reservation. This event starts on Saturday afternoon, June 27th and ends on Monday, June 29th. Saturday and Sunday will be full of awesome activities all day long at camp with access to all the program areas of summer camp including our nature area, shooting sports, Scout craft and the beautiful waterfront where you will get to swim and enjoy the lake. We will have campfires filled with skits and songs, evening snacks, and all meals will be provided. This is a great pack, den, and family event that concludes with Sunday breakfast. Activities include: Shooting BB Guns, Archery, Games, Crafts, Nature Hikes, Boating, Fishing, Swimming, Campfire Program, Star Gazing, and much more! Look at this event online for more information and registration details.

Scouts, BSA Summer Camp

Maumee Scout Reservation is still gearing up for an exciting 2020 summer camp experience! Summer camp is where “it” all happens through the adventures we offer. This is the highlight of a Scout Troop’s program year, and our staff is ready to help make that a reality for you and you’re Scouts. Even though things have been temporarily shut down to help prevent the spreading of the coronavirus we still plan to continue forward with our summer camp operations at Maumee Scout Reservation. We know that you have a lot of concerns as it relates to obtaining annual health checks, financial assistance, and scheduling conflicts. We want you to know that we are visiting this topic weekly to make the best safety decision for our youth and leaders as it relates to cancelations or postponements. We encourage leaders to continue planning as normal and reserve your campsites, register your Scouts, and select merit badges. We have extended the early bird discount to May 15th to provide extra time and will continue to work with leaders to make reasonable accommodations moving forward. Please remember that we have a campership assistance program available to Scouts and families in need. We have more new opportunities to offer this year including several new merit badges and more activities in our older Scout programs. It is our desire that you can enjoy a week away from the pressures and demands of the world and spend quality time with your Scouts, our future leaders. Registration is open right now and you can reserve your week, campsites, and even select merit badges and activities for your Scouts. Remember that we offer provisional weeks of camp for Scouts who are unable to camp the same week with their troops or would like to return for a second week at half price! View all the details online at www.HoosierMaumee.org and “like” us on Facebook. As always, welcome to camp!

National Scout Jamboree

Registration is now open for Scouting’s flagship event. This is one-of-a-kind! It’s a gathering of tens, thousands of Scouts, leaders, and Jamboree Service Team members that showcases everything great about the Boy Scouts of America. Once every four years, the Boy Scouts of America gathers together. Scouts and Scouters who attend will explore all kinds of adventures—stadium shows, pioneer village, Mount Jack hikes, whitewater rafting and kayaking, mountain biking, rock climbing adventure sports, and more—in the heart of one of nature’s greatest playgrounds. With 10,000 acres at the Summit to explore, there’s no shortage of opportunities to build Scouting memories. National Jamboree is the best of Scouting rolled into 10 days of friends, fun and adventure! You won’t want to miss out, get ready to Face the Challenge and sign up to attend the Jamboree! Hoosier Trails Council will take a contingent of 44 Scouts and 6 adult leaders to the 2021 National Scout Jamboree. The Scouts will be divided into 2 Troops (1 female troop and 1 male troops). The total cost for each participant will be $1,800. In addition to this once in a lifetime event, the cost includes transportation by tour bus to and from The Summit, meals, personal Jamboree duffel and day pack, special patches, and more.

Reserve your space now with a $300 non-refundable deposit. Three additional payments will be due by July 31, 2020 ($500), November 30, 2020 ($500), and February 28, 2021 ($500). If you are making your initial Jamboree registration after July 31, 2020, you will owe the cumulative amount due on the date of registration to reserve your space. The $300 deposit is non-refundable. Subsequent payments are non-refundable unless the contingent is full, the individual slot is reassigned to another youth from the waiting list. Scouts must be First Class and twelve years old by the beginning of jamboree.
Digital Safety in a Time of Online Activity

As our council and units use digital and online resources, such as video conferencing, to continue Scouting meetings, projects and advancement during the COVID-19 outbreak, the National Council is providing the following guidance.

- BSA’s youth protection policies apply to all online activities. All online activities, including video and audio conferencing through platforms such as Zoom and Skype, must adhere to the BSA’s current youth protection guidelines for digital communications, including the BSA’s Digital Privacy guidelines (https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/) and the BSA’s Social Media Guidelines (https://scoutingwire.org/social-media-guidelines/). Because safety features and privacy controls vary widely from platform to platform, and out of respect for families’ own preferences concerning social media usage, we strongly recommend using business-oriented conferencing platforms—for example, Zoom, Skype, GoToMeeting and others—to conduct online group activities instead of platforms intended for online gaming (e.g., Discord, Robolux, Twitch).

- Safeguard personal information. If you collect a person’s personal information online—for example, through web forms used to register people for online meetings—then you should post a notice or disclosure at the point of collection describing how you will use the information. Keep in mind, video conferencing platforms (e.g., Zoom) have their own privacy policies which apply to data collected through the platform. Organizers of Zoom and Skype meetings—for example, unit leaders and Merit Badge counselors—may obtain personal information about a youth, such as his or her name, phone number or email address. Meeting organizers must keep such information private and not share a youth’s personal information with anyone else except that youths’ parent or guardian or the unit leader responsible for recording advancements. For example, a Merit Badge counselor should not publicly post or otherwise disclose a roster containing personal information of Scouts who the counselor has worked with.

- Recording online meetings is not authorized. As a reminder, Scouting’s Barriers to Abuse (https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss01/#a) prohibits any one-on-one contact between an adult leader and youth members—in person, online, through a web conference, over the phone, via text, or in any other form. Electronic communication between adults and youth should always include another registered leader or parent. We believe our existing policy is the best way to protect youth and volunteers, and we do not believe recording online meetings would provide any additional material benefit. To the contrary, recording calls would increase personal risk as call recording is subject to various legal requirements under U.S. law and the laws of individual states, some of which require all parties to a call consent to recording. Considering those potential regulatory risks and the effect of BSA’s existing policies, we are not authorizing the recording of online meetings.

- Collecting personal information from youth under 13 is not recommended. We advise against collecting personal information directly from youth under 13 years of age due to the parental notice and consent requirements under the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (“COPPA”). COPPA does not restrict the collection of personal information about a youth from his or her parent or guardian. For the purposes of COPPA, “personal information” includes first and last name; home or other physical address; screen name or username that functions as online contact information; telephone number; a social security number; or a photograph, video, or audio file containing the child’s image or voice.

Scouting from Home Resources

We know that Scouting is very important to our families and we want to do all that we can to help facilitate advancement and activities throughout the next several weeks or more. It is fun to be able to spend some extra time around your house and with family but we know that your active lifestyle can make you a little stir crazy and you need to shake of the dust and find an adventure. Now, more than ever, we are able to facilitate a lot of great programing online with the help of so many tools at our fingertips. We would encourage you to spend some time online and check out many of the wonderful ideas that Scouters have come up with around the country to fight the stay at home blues. We are working with a great team of leaders to provide Scouting activities at both Cub Scout and Scout BSA levels. This is free to our members and will give you the ability to continue your path of advancement and have fun along the way. Each week, we will offer one Elective Adventure activity for every den level. You can access these through our council website and download the presentation. We will also be offering several Virtual
Merit Badge Days throughout this time free of charge to all Scouts. We will continue to offer new activities, but for now, check out how councils from around the country are making Scouting happen! Even when life gets tough, Scouting stays strong.

We know you have questions...

Rank Advancement and the Coronavirus (COVID-19)
The following questions regarding advancement have arisen as we deal with closures, cancellations, or other issues caused by the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Although there are difficulties and constraints, advancement can continue. Youth, parents, and leaders should work together to implement creative, common sense ways to facilitate advancement while adhering to the Guide to Safe Scouting and following the rules of Youth Protection training. The Guide to Advancement (GTA), remains the primary source for information related to Scouts BSA advancement. It is referenced throughout the answers provided here.

All Scouting Programs

Q: How can advancement be tracked remotely?
A: Scouting units should use ScoutBook to record and track advancement.
   To track advancement remotely, parents should:
   - Connect with their child’s member profile via an invitation that the unit leader sends within ScoutBook.
   - Once a connection is made, the parent should use the Scouting app, found in both the App Store and Google Play, to stay connected with their unit.
   - The Scouting app provides parents the ability to report any advancement that was completed at home.

Go to https://help.scoutbook.com to learn more about how to start using ScoutBook and how to connect parents to their Scouts.

Cub Scouts

Q: May parents sign off on Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements?
A: Yes. Through July 31, 2020, parents and other adults in the Cub Scout’s family, may sign off on Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements. We strongly encourage that parents use the Scouting App or ScoutBook to record completion of their child’s requirements.

Q: If my den is behind in advancement due to COVID-19, can my Cub Scout continue to work on advancement through the summer?
A: Yes. Cub Scouts can continue to work on their current den’s advancement through July 31, 2020. This is to provide any additional time a Cub Scout needs to complete their badge of rank; if they earn their badge of rank prior to July 31, 2020, they may advance to the next rank.

Scouts BSA and Venturing

Q: May merit badge requirements or rank requirements be modified?
A: No. All requirements must be completed as written. If meetings or activities are canceled or limited, youth should continue to work on requirements as far as possible. By employing common sense and creative solutions, many requirements—even Scoutmaster conferences—can be fulfilled through videoconferencing or telephone calls.

Q: Can merit badge counseling or Nova/Supernova counseling be done using digital technologies like Zoom or WebEx?
A: Yes, registered merit badge counselors or Nova counselors/Supernova mentors may work with youth using digital platforms, ensuring that all youth protection measures noted in the Guide to Safe Scouting and BSA’s social media guidelines are in place. In addition to youth protection, the advancement guidelines in GTA Section 7 are required.

-Continued on page 14
Recruit A Friend
Scouting from home could be the perfect opportunity for Scouts to earn a Recruiter strip for their uniform. Ask a friend to join the adventure by going to the Hoosier Trails Council web site to check out the Cub Scout adventures and 30-day challenges for Scouts BSA. Friends and parents can all participate together through video conference or do the activities solo at home. When stay-at-home advisories end, bring your friend to the first meeting to officially Join Scouts.

Muscatatuck Calendar

**May**
- 5  Muscatatuck District Management Team Meeting, Online Meeting, 6:30 pm
- 12 East Side Retention Convention - Online Training

**June**
- 9  Muscatatuck Join Scouts Night Training - Online Training
The Importance of Community in Today's World
As you all know these have been some very trying times. The world seems to have been flipped upside down onto our heads. Things that were once considered rocks in our lives have now become uncertain and that has at times been uneasy. I would like to however take this time to look at the other side of things. In this time of uncertainty and confusion I have witnessed some amazing things. At a time when people are social distancing at least 6 feet apart I have seen how we are all in fact coming closer together through our weekly Scout meeting and staying closer with the loved ones in our homes and in touch with family members out of our homes as well. When people are becoming worried for the health of themselves and their friends and family members, I have witnessed everyone supporting one another and lending an open “metaphorical” hand. Remember in these times to look at the gifts and blessings in your own life and to remember how much the people in your lives mean to you. When things do return to normal be sure to take the positive outcomes from this experience with you.

Take Time to Become the Best You - Three Techniques for Your Best Version
Three practices, which constitute the basis of this philosophy, appeared at different times. They help a person change the attitude to life and reconcile to its imperfection, challenges as well as hardships. These concepts develop positive thinking and show people the way to self-perfection. Being very easy to formulate and understand, they require certain efforts to follow them.

#1: Be Grateful with Naikan (Gratitude)
The concept of Naikan (“gratitude” in Japanese) appeared in the medieval Japan and is of a Buddhist origin. It presupposes cultivation of a reasonable assessment of any situation and its reduction to the real size. This method of self-reflection teaches us to analyze honestly our behavior and attitude to others as well as be grateful for what we have already got. When we have to answer these simple questions – What have I given? What have I got? What harm have I caused to others? – we often come to the conclusion that we over exaggerate our misfortunes. It’s not easy or pleasant to evaluate and acknowledge our failures and mistakes. However, by doing that, we become better, stronger, and more satisfied with the surrounding world. Gratitude instead of sorrows, disappointments, and complaints helps overcome anxiety as well as stress. This also reflects positively on our self-esteem and self-confidence.

#2: Calm Yourself Down with Morita Psychotherapy
This concept was named after its author, the Japanese psychologist Shoma Morita. In the West, it is known as “Constructive living”. It teaches to admit our feelings as having the right to exist. Very often, we are too preoccupied with what we feel, and this diverts us from living a full life. Morita makes us understand that our feelings are natural reactions and trying to control or avoid them can exhaust our brain as well as nervous system. For example, we focus on misunderstandings in the family. However, a rare family has no conflicts or arguments. This is quite natural. According to this concept, it’s better to accept our feelings and learn to co-exist with them. In this case, we’ll have more time, energy, and courage to live our lives.

#3: Change for the Best with Practicing Kaizen
The word “Kaizen” consists of two Japanese hieroglyphs, meaning “change” and “good”. This concept was developed as a management strategy in the middle of the 20th century, but nowadays it is applied to various fields of human activity. People’s natural desire for self-perfection lies in the basis of this approach. It focuses on importance of making incremental but constant improvements in our personalitie as well as in our lives. In other words, we cope with numbers of small tasks, which ultimately leads to success. Seeing immediate results is beneficial for psychic, therefore, this concept is widely used in psychotherapy, life-coaching programs, and other health care practices.

Wapehani Calendar

**May**
- 7 District Management Team Meeting, Online, 7:00 pm
- 14 District Commissioner Staff Meeting, Online, 9:00 pm
- 14 Roundtable, Online, 7:00 pm

**June**
- 4 District Management Team Meeting, Online, 7:00 pm
- 11 Join Scouts Night Training, Online, 7:00 pm

**July**
- 2 District Committee Meeting, Council Service Center, 5625 E. State Road 46, Bloomington, 7:00 pm
Scouting Continues Despite COVID-19

No one expected this or saw it coming. COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on the vivacious social and economic health in our country, leaving many people distancing themselves from co-workers, friends, and family. With school corporations shutting down for an extended period and going to E-Learning, some schools even to the end of the spring semester to complete the school year, the pandemic has many people staying at home and practicing social distancing. This, alone, has had an impact on businesses, community services, and organizations such as the Hoosier Trails Council and the Scouts associated with it. Unit meetings along with district and Council activities in March and April have been postponed, rescheduled, or simply canceled. But that has not stopped “Scouting” from continuing in Central Indiana. They say when you are given lemons, make lemonade. That is what happened in our Council, as many resources from around the country, even from our own Council, have been made available online. Scouts from the Packs and Troops in our districts have continued working on rank advancement right from the comforts of their own home. One great example is Scouters from our districts have worked together to coordinate a virtual merit badge fair, in which, qualified merit badge counselors will work with Scouts through videoconferencing. Not only have Scouts from our districts registered for the event, but, Scouts from other Councils across the nation signed up as well. Another way that Scouting has continued with its members living out the Scout Law and Scout Oath by taking care of their families, safely assisting neighbors, or by simply putting others first and doing the right thing. Bottom line: Scouting continues because Scouts and Scouters have passion to put into practice what they have learned. Stay safe and vigilant. Scout Me In!

White River Trails Calendar

May

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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>District Management Team Meeting, Spring Mill State Park Admin. Building, 6:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Roundtable, Odon United Methodist Church, Odon, IN, 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Commissioner Staff Meeting, WebEx, 7:30 pm</td>
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June

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>District Management Team Meeting, Spring Mill State Park Admin. Building, 6:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Commissioner Staff Meeting, WebEx, 7:30 pm</td>
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July

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>No District meetings</td>
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What Lies Ahead Depends on Your Planning Now

Someone once asked Lord Baden-Powell, “Prepared for what?” to which Baden-Powell replied, “Why, for any old thing.” A closer look into what he meant comes from the 13th edition of the Boy Scout Handbook, and it reads, “His (Baden-Powell) idea was that Scouts should prepare themselves to become productive citizens and strong leaders and to bring joy to other people. He wanted each Scout to be ready in mind and body and to meet with a strong heart whatever challenges await him.” During this time, you might also ask “Prepared for what?” Why, being ready with a plan to help train Scouts to become productive citizens with strong leadership skills, ready for life’s challenges. Being prepared also includes the need to have a plan. Planning is essential to the success of your unit remaining strong, engaged, and ready. With today’s videoconferencing (check out Zoom) capabilities, Pack committee members can meet virtually to plan activities for next year’s “Year of Scouting.” The Troop’s Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader Council could work on planning the next meeting whether it be a Court of Honor or an evening packed with lots of awesome and engaging Scouting information and activities. Other planning that is crucial is coming up with a membership plan, including participating in Join Scouts Night (August). Begin recruiting a Popcorn Kernel for your unit and work with them to generate a plan to guide the unit to a successful campaign. Another way to be prepared is taking inventory of your leadership needs, now, and begin looking for volunteers to train and be ready to step into their role when meetings resume. Whatever time can be used now for planning will make things easier down the road. Be Prepared. For Life.
Unit Program Planning - Let all the families help!

How do you get buy-in and commitment from your unit’s families when it comes to annual programming and fundraising needs? The answer to this question is the key factor to the level of success your Scouting program will enjoy.

Key components in planning your unit’s program planning:
- Brainstorm what your unit wants to do for this Scouting year, include as many families as possible in the process.
- Develop a budget to determine expenses and compare them to your unit’s income. Calculate a per Scout cost for the year.
- Develop a unit calendar to solidify the plan and to help communicate the upcoming adventures.
- Prepare an organized fundraising approach and clearly share expectations with families. The more the unit makes the less money your families have to take from their wallets.
- Set a Unit Goal and a Per Scout Goal. Every family needs to help pay their way either by fundraising or pay the actual cost.

For more details on unit program planning, check out the Electronic Resources on the web at www.HoosierTrailsBSA.org, or talk with your District Executive.

SCOUTING FORWARD
GROWING. MOMENTUM. TOGETHER.

Order of the Arrow

Maumee Scout Reservation Camp Prep. Workday
As many of the Order of the Arrow events have been canceled due to the Corona virus, our lodge has graciously scheduled a camp preparation workday to help our staff get ready for the summer. We are so fortunate to have an active lodge that cares about camping in the outdoors and service. All Scouts and Scouters are welcome to attend this service day on June 6th from 9:00-3:00 pm at MSR. We will be working in campsites and program areas to clean and get things sparkling for camp. We always have a lot of landscaping projects and painting so please bring your yard tools and dress for the day. Lunch will be provided, and we will have a great time in the outdoors!

Brotherhood Counseling/Ceremony
If you are a Brotherhood Candidate, please join us at Maumee Scout Reservation on June 6th from 1:00-4:00 pm for a counseling session and your Brotherhood Ceremony. This will be in conjunction with the MSR Camp Prep. Workday and you are welcome to join us for both events.

2021 NATIONAL JAMBOREE
July 21-30, 2021
We Know You Have Questions continued

Q: May time missed due to canceled unit meetings count toward active participation requirements?
A: Yes. If youth are registered and in good standing, a disruption from COVID-19 virus can be the “noteworthy circumstance” that prevents participation. This policy has been in place for many years and is explained in GTA Topic 4.2.3.1.

Q: May time missed due to canceled unit meetings count toward position of responsibility requirements?
A: Yes. If youth are registered and unable to meet the expectations of their positions because of COVID-19 disruptions, then units may need to waive or rethink the expectations. Just as youth must not be held to unestablished expectations, they must not be held to expectations that are impossible to fulfill. See GTA Topic 4.2.3.4, “Positions of Responsibility,” with its six subtopics.

Q: Does the National Council grant extensions of time to complete rank requirements beyond the 18th birthday for the Eagle or 21st birthday for Summit or Quartermaster?
A: Yes, but only for the Eagle Scout rank as described in GTA Topic 9.0.4.0 or for Venturing Summit or Sea Scout Quartermaster as described in GTA Topic 4.3.3.0. Unit leadership must become familiar with the five tests under 9.0.4.0. The tests were designed to accommodate such obstacles as those presented by COVID-19 disruptions.

Q: Will youth who are not yet Life Scouts be allowed to apply for an extension to earn the Eagle Scout rank?
A: Extensions are considered only for Scouts who are Life rank. If, once a Scout achieves Life rank, it turns out that COVID-19 disruptions along the way have left them with insufficient time to complete Eagle requirements, then this may be cited when the time comes to submit an extension request.

Q: May local councils grant extensions?
A: Normally, that is not allowed. However, due to the current situation—effective immediately and through September 30, 2020—council Scout executives may grant extensions, or delegate authority to the Council Advancement Committee to grant extensions under the following limitations:
  • It can be established that COVID-19 disruptions were the only circumstances that delayed work on Eagle Scout/Summit/Quartermaster advancement requirements, such as the service project or merit badges. If any other causes were involved, the extension request must go to the National Council following the process outlined in the GTA.
  • Extensions shall only be granted to youth in Scouts BSA who have already achieved Life rank.
  • When the council receives a COVID-19-related request for a time extension, the council reviews the request and approves it if appropriate. A written response stating the outcome of the extension request must go to the youth. If approved, the notification must be attached to the youth’s Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster rank application. For Eagle, the extension must not exceed 3 months from the youth’s 18th birthday; for Summit/Quartermaster, the extension must not exceed 3 months from the youth’s 21st birthday.
  • Upon turning 18, the Scout must submit a completed adult application and successfully complete YPT; their participant code will now be UP for SBSA or VP for Venturing and Sea Scouting.
  • Extension requests for more than 3 months beyond the youth’s 18th/21st birthday must be sent to the National Service Center following the process outlined in the GTA.
  • Note: A “month” in BSA advancement is defined as a day from one month to the next. For example, March 5 to April 5.

The authority for councils to grant extensions is temporary, lasting only through Sept. 30, 2020.

Q: If youth have already received an extension, can they request additional time due to COVID-19?
A: Yes. Council Scout executives may grant extensions, or delegate authority to the Council Advancement Committee to grant extensions under the limitations listed above.

Q: What should be done while an extension request is being considered?
A: Youth should continue to work on advancement in so far as they are able—e.g., independently, or over the phone or videoconference—and at Scouting activities once they resume.

Q: Are extensions required when an Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster board of review must be delayed?
A: No. Councils may grant Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster boards of review up to six months after the youth’s 18th/21st birthday. See GTA Topic 8.0.3.1, “Eagle Scout Board of Review Beyond the 18th Birthday.” See also, GTA Topic 8.0.1.6, “Boards of Review Through Videoconferencing.”
Q: Are electronic or digital signatures acceptable for rank advancement or for the Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster packets/applications?
A: Yes. Electronic or digital signatures will be accepted through September 30, 2020.

Q: How can a youth continue to work on advancement requirements if they don’t have internet or high-speed internet for videoconferencing?
A: Youth may take a picture of their completed activity/requirement and share the work with unit leaders. In keeping with Youth Protection Training policies, all communications from youth should be sent to at least two adults. Parents or guardians may send advancement work on behalf of their child.

Personnel Changes in the Council Service Center

Brenda Sadler has announced her retirement after 29 years with the council. Her last day was on April 30, 2020 and we wish her and Ralph the best as they enter this next stage of their lives.

Renee Allen has made us aware that she is expecting their first child and that she plans to not return to work after the birth. Her last day will be May 31, 2020 and will we miss the professional customer service that she has provided our team.

Terri Lee is a Scouter out of Troop 148 and operated the MSR Trading Post for us last summer. Terri has been hired onto our support staff and began her employment on April 1, 2020.

Council Dates

Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, we are not publishing dates in this edition; rather, readers are encouraged to visit www.HoosierTrailsBSA.org for the most current information.
Hoosier Trails Council
Boy Scouts of America
www.HoosierTrailsBSA.org
5625 East State Road 46
Bloomington, IN 47401

Scout Shop & Office Hours
Monday - Friday 10 am to 5 pm
Scout Shop Saturday - 10 am to 2 pm
Sunday - Closed

Phone
812.336.6809 * 800.844.6809

Trail Signs is the official newsletter of the Hoosier Trails Council, that communicates with more than 6,000 families in south-central Indiana. Newsletter submissions to gsteenberger@bsamail.org.

United Way

TO PURCHASE ADVANCEMENT MATERIALS OR PRODUCTS, PLEASE FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

1. Unit Leaders: email the Advancement report to NDCSupply.Orders@Scouting.org
2. Customer Service will contact the Unit Leader
3. Advancement materials and products will be shipped via FedEx

Hoosier Trails Council Scout Shop
5625 East State Road 46
Bloomington, IN 47401
812.287.8349

Store Hours
Monday-Friday:
10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am—2:00 pm