



Three Rivers POST

Leadership in Scouting

If you have not seen the [Boy Scouts of America Scouter Code of Conduct](#), you may want to check it out. Every Scout leader promises to comply with this code of conduct. We are to hold each other accountable to this standard.

The Boy Scouts of America Code of Conduct can be found in the front of [Guide to Safe Scouting](#).

This responsibility can also be found on [Scouting.org](#) website on the [Youth Protection and Adult Leadership](#) page.

“Responsibility *Leaders must ensure*

“I strongly believe in Scouting,... It’s a source of great strength to us”.
John F. Kennedy

that all participating in Scouting activities abide by the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Adult leaders and youth members share the responsibility for the safety of all participants in the program, including adherence to

Youth Protection and health and safety policies.

Adult leaders are responsible for monitoring behavior and intervening when necessary. Physical violence, sexual activity, emotional abuse, spiritual abuse, unauthorized weapons, hazing, discrimination, harassment, initiation rites, bullying, cyber bullying, theft, verbal insults, drugs, alcohol, and pornography have no place in the Scouting program and may result in revocation of membership.

New Newsletter—Three Rivers POST

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep leaders informed. To *support and strengthen Scout Leaders by sharing tools, resources and knowledge needed to be effective Scout Leaders*

and provide guidance that follows the path and supports the [Aims and Mission of Boy Scouts of America](#).

Please share your feedback - thoughts, sug-

gestions, ideas, articles by submitting them to the Editor - japb@mindspring.com

Place “Three Rivers Post” in the topic of the email.

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“...The books lay down definite principles and examples which serve to guide the leaders when applying their common sense to the situation before them. No two situations are ever precisely the same, and it is therefore impossible to lay down exact rules that should guide in every case, but a man who carries precedents and principles in his head has no difficulty in applying their teaching in supreme moments of sudden emergency...”

Quote from Sir Robert Baden Powell from his 1914 book Quick Training for War

Safety Resources

Safety Moments

Did you know that Scouting provides Safety Moments? Checkout <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/>

Safety Moments are exactly what the name implies: opportunities to prepare for an activity, review safety measures, and report incidents correctly. Topics of this new series include incident reporting helps, safe use of medication in Scouting, weather-related safety, winter activity, and winter sports.

Read more about using a safety moment in Scouting activities by downloading the following [PDF](#).

Topics include:

- Asthma
- Annual Health and Medical Record
- Camp Fire Safety
- Campout Safety Checklist
- Carbon Monoxide Poisoning—at Home or Camp
- Communicable Disease Prevention.
- Hazard Trees And Hammocks—Jack’s Story.

Safety Moments are exactly what the name implies

Other Safety Tips can be found on the [Scouts Canada website](#) .

Topics include:

- The Right Footwear
- Culinary Safety
- Knife Safety
- Medications Safety

Safety Newsletter

Safe Scouting Newsletter is compiled by the Safe Scouting Support

Committee and published twice a year and can be found at <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/hs-newsletter/>

The latest Issue is the

[Fall/Winter 2019 newsletter](#). Topics include Personal Safety Awareness, Hazard Trees, and updates to the Guide to Safe Scouting Prohibited Activity Listing.

Safety Incident Reviews

Safety Incident Reviews can be found on Scouting.org under Scouting Safety.

[Incident Reviews](#), offer guidance to prevent similar occurrences. The Incident Reviews include what occurred and Key Points that may have made a difference.

Topics Include:

- All Terrain Vehicles
- Allergies and Anaphylaxis
- Asthma
- Boating
- Campfires
- Dog Bites

Guide to Safe Scouting

[\(On-line Version\)](#)

Reference Section – Camping

“If a well-meaning leader brings along a child who does not meet these age guidelines, disservice is done to the unit because of distractions often caused by younger children. A disservice is also done to the child, who is not trained to par-

ticipate in such an activity and who, as a nonmember of the group, may be ignored by the older campers or be at risk from activities that are not age appropriate.”

Risk Reduction

[Guide to Safe Scouting—Camping-Lightning Risk Reduction](#) .

In many parts of the country, Scouting activities in the outdoors will be at risk to thunderstorms and lightning strike potential. In a thunderstorm, there is no risk-free location outside.

First, to be prepared for your outdoor adventure, it is important to know the weather patterns of the area. Weather patterns on the Florida coast differ greatly from the mountains of New Mexico and the lakes of Minnesota or the rivers of West Virginia. In addition to patterns, monitor current weather forecasts and conditions of the area you plan to visit to modify your plans if needed.

The National Weather Service recommends that when the “Thunder Roars, Go Indoors! The only completely safe action is to get inside a safe building or vehicle.” When a safe building or vehicle is nearby, the best risk-reduction technique is to get to it as soon as possible.

Move quickly when you:

- First hear thunder,
- See lightning, or
- Observe dark, threatening clouds developing overhead.

Stay inside until 30 minutes after you last hear the last rumble of

Lightning Risk Reduction ... Continued.



thunder before resuming outdoor activities. Shelter—two forms: Safe Building—one that is fully enclosed with a roof, walls, and floor, and has plumbing or wiring. Examples of safe buildings include a home, school, church, hotel, office building, or shopping center.

Safe Vehicle—any fully enclosed, metal-topped vehicle such as a hard topped car, minivan, bus, truck, etc. If you drive into a thunderstorm, slow down and use extra caution. If possible, pull off the road into a safe area. Do NOT leave the vehicle during a thunderstorm.

Risk Reduction (when no safe building or vehicle is nearby):

If camping, hiking, etc., far from a safe vehicle or building, avoid open fields, the top of a hill, or a ridge top. Spread your group out 100 feet from each other if possible. Stay away from tall, isolated trees; flag poles; totem poles; or other tall objects. If you are in a forest, stay near a lower stand of trees.

If you are camping in an open area, set up camp in a valley, ravine, or other low area, but avoid flood-prone areas. Remember, a tent offers NO protection from lightning.

Stay away from water, wet items (such as ropes), and metal objects (such as fences and poles). Water

and metal are excellent conductors of electricity.

If boating and you cannot get back to land to a safe building or vehicle: On a small boat, drop anchor and get as low as possible. Large boats with cabins, especially those with lightning protection systems properly installed, or metal marine vessels offer a safer but not risk-free environment. Remember to stay inside the cabin and away from any metal surfaces.

If lightning strikes, be prepared to administer CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) so that you can tend to lightning victims quickly (they do not hold an electrical charge). Take anyone who is a victim of a lightning strike or near-strike to the nearest medical facility as soon as possible, even if the person appears to be unharmed.

For additional information on lightning and weather services, visit www.noaa.gov.
[Incident Review: Lightning](#)
Download: [BSA SAFETY INCIDENT REVIEW: LIGHTNING](#)

These are not to scare leaders but to keep us informed to prevent recurrence of a similar incident.

A Scout is Reverent

Scout Sunday - [Observance](#)

The Boy Scouts of America designates the Sunday that falls before February 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) as Scout Sunday, which is the primary date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. 2020 Feb

2 is the Sunday that falls before Feb 8. However, your chartered organization may elect a different Sunday.

The “Scout Sunday” patch is a good way to acknowledge that a scout has taken part in

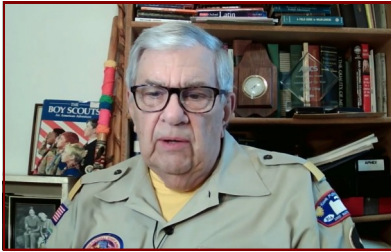


Scout Sunday. The Scout Sunday tradition was started to make people in houses of worship aware of Scouting, and to allow Scouts to live out their “Duty to God”.

Advancement

Advancement

Guardian of the Gate by Darnall Daley.



This piece has appeared in *Advancement News* and is considered by the National Advancement Program Team to be the most accurate accounting of the proper approach to advancement. [Click here to view the video.](#)

Advancement Defined: It Is a Method—Not an End in Itself. Advancement is simply a means to an end, not an end in itself. It is one of several methods designed to help unit leadership carry out the aims and mission of the Boy Scouts of America.

2.0.0.3 Personal Growth Is the Primary Goal. Scouting skills—what a young person learns to do—is important, but not as important as the primary goal of *personal growth* achieved through participating in a unit program. The concern is for total, well-rounded development. Age-appropriate surmountable hurdles are placed before members, and as they face these challenges they learn about themselves and gain confidence.

Electronic Advancement Reporting

The best and most accurate method of [reporting advancement](#) is through the BSA's internet portal for reporting advancement.

- 4.0.0.2 Reporting Advancement
- 6.0.0.1 Importance and Benefits of Electronic Advancement Reporting
- ScoutBook and Internet Advancement (IA)

Merit Badges

“There is more to merit badges than simply providing opportunities to learn skills.”

Reference: The Guide to Advancement 2019 – [The Merit Badge Program Section 7.0.0.1.](#)

The Blue Card – It is the nationally recognized merit badge record. The use of blue cards is mandated by BSA. However, Tentaroo has been approved by GAC as an acceptable reporting method for merit badges.

Unit leaders should regularly review the policies and procedures related to the merit badge process with Scouts, parents, guardians, and leaders, and counsel them on proper methods as the need arises.

Merit Badge Counselors must be registered adult leaders. They register at no fee, using the Boy Scouts of America's standard adult registration form with position code 42. Designated members of the council

or district advancement committee should provide the approval signature.

Merit Badge Counselor PowerPoint Presentation – “[The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling](#)” This PowerPoint presentation with speaker notes covers the required procedures for merit badge counseling, clarifies the role of counselors in the BSA advancement program, and discusses the appropriate approaches to use in working with Scouts. It is intended as an instructor-led presentation to counselors of any experience level and takes 60 to 90 minutes to complete. [Download PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Volunteers who are properly registered as merit badge counselors can renew annually without completing a BSA adult application; their names will appear on the district roster for renewal. Anyone who is currently unregistered, or who is registered in another position but also desires to serve as a merit badge counselor, must complete an adult application.

There is more to merit badges than simply providing opportunities to learn skills.

Merit Badge Counselors

If you are or desire to be a merit badge counselor you must be a registered adult and you must have a merit badge counselor form submitted to the Scout Service Center.

References:

[Guide for Merit Badge Counselors.](#)

[Adult Registration Form](#)

[Merit Badge Counselor Form](#)

Eagle Scout

Eagle Scout Rank

Reference [9.0.2.14 Risk Management and Eagle Scout Service Projects](#).

All Eagle Scout service projects constitute official Scouting activity and thus are subject to Boy Scouts of America policies and procedures. Projects are considered part of a unit's program and are treated as such with regard to policies, procedures, and requirements regarding Youth Protection, two-deep leadership, etc. Unit leadership should be aware of project plans and schedules. The health and safety of those working on Eagle projects must be integrated into project execution. Since an Eagle Scout service project is a unit activity, unit adult leadership has the same responsibility to assure safety in conducting a project as with any other unit activity. The unit leader or unit committee should reject proposals for inherently unsafe projects. The candidate should plan for safe execution, but it must be understood that minors cannot and must not be held responsible for safety concerns. As with any Scouting activity, the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) applies. The "[Sweet 16 of BSA Safety](#)" must also be consulted as an appropriate planning tool. It can be found

online at "Scouting Safely," www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/sweet16.

Eagle Application

9.0.1.7 [References Contacted](#)

Council advancement committee members—or others designated—have the responsibility to secure recommendations from the references appearing under requirement 2 on the Eagle Scout Rank Application. This may be done by letter, form, or phone call. For reasons of privacy and confidentiality, electronic submissions are discouraged.

It is acceptable to send or deliver to the references an addressed envelope with instructions, and perhaps a form to complete. Scouts may assist with this, but that is the limit of their participation. Scouts are not responsible for follow-through or any other aspect of the process. It is up to the council's designated representatives to collect the responses. If after a reasonably diligent effort, no response can be obtained from any references, the board of review

must go on without them. It must not be postponed or denied for this reason, and the Scout shall not be asked to submit additional references or to provide replacements.

Completed reference responses of any kind are the property of the council and are confidential, and only review-board members and those officials with a specific need may see them. The responses are not to be viewed by or returned to the Scout. Doing so could discourage the submission of negative information. For the same reason, those providing references do not have the option of giving the reference directly to

Completed reference responses of any kind are the property of the council and are confidential.

the Scout and shall not be given the option of waiving confidentiality. Once a review has been held, or an appeal process conducted, responses shall be returned to the council, where they will be destroyed after the Eagle Scout credentials are released or the appeal is concluded.

A Scout is Kind

A smile is the universal language for kindness

- Gus Sanchez, *International Newsletter Boy Scouts of America*

Upcoming Events Cubs

Pinewood Derby

Check out this issue of [Boy's Life Magazine](#).



References:

[How to Make a Fast Pinewood Derby Car](#)

[Polishing Pinewood Derby Axles](#)

[2020 Pinewood Derby Rules!](#)

[Awesome Pinewood Derby Car Designs of 2020](#)



Start your engines it time for District Pinewood Derby. The date is being finalized. In the mean time, the latest update for District Pinewood Derby can be found on the 3RiversAdvancement.org site.

This issue if chop full of great ideas and fun. Pinewood Derby Jokes, How to Build the Fastest Pinewood Derby Car, Shark Pinewood Derby Cars...

This year 3Rivers District is thrilled to announce that the District Pinewood Derby will be at Barber's motorsports park. How awesome is that, you'll be able to say "I raced at Barber's". Every pinewood car can

Sam: One night I dreamed I was a muffler.

Jeremy: Really? What happened?

Sam: I woke up exhausted.

Joke submitted by Samuel E., Kemp, Tex.



enter to race. You can use the car you raced in your Pack, you can modify it to make it faster, or you can make a new car if you wish for this event.

The cost will be 6 dollars for pre-registered cars, or 10 dollars for walk-ins.

Joke:

Hayden: What kind of car does a Jedi drive?

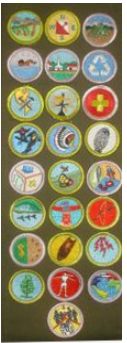
Jake: I don't know.

Hayden: A Toy Yoda.

Joke submitted by Hayden S., Eugene, Oregon

Upcoming Events Scouts

Merit Badge Day



The Three Rivers District Merit Badge Day will be **February 1, 2020** and registration is open.

Registration can be found in Tentaroo as “Three River Merit Badge Day”. Did you catch that River does not have the “s”. To find it in Tentaroo you leave the “s” off of Rivers. “Three River Merit Badge Day”

The cost will be 15 dollars per Scout.

This event will be at Jefferson State Community College (Jefferson Campus)

2601 Carson Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35215.

Opening Ceremony will start at 8:45am and the event will conclude by 4:10pm.



Class “A” Uniform is desirable.

References:

[Tentaroo](#)

[Help File for Tentaroo](#)

[Merit Badge Day 2020 Catalog](#)

[List of Available Classes](#)

[Jefferson State Community College](#)

District Camporee

The Three Rivers District Camporee will be **February 21-23, 2020** at Whippoorwill Creek Ranch. Address: 2001 Gaines Road, Altoona, Alabama 35952



The Theme will be “**Finding your way**” came about in an effort to reinforce a very important skill among our scouts.

While orienteering is a central theme, we’ve included a few other important skills, such as first aid. We’ve included a dinner competition that we hope will encourage

our youth to think outside their usual box while meal planning. We’ve also included a great competition involving lashings just so the adults can have some entertainment while watching the youth squirm a bit.

At the end of the day, the most important thing is that our youth learn and grow.

The fun is just a bonus.

References:

[Whippoorwill Creek Ranch](#)

[Camporee Leaders Guide and Registration.](#)

[3RiversAdvancement.org](#)

A Scout is Helpful

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



THREE RIVERS DISTRICT

Contact
John A. Bryant

Email: japb@mindspring.com



BSA Mission Statement

(Reference: [Guide to Advancement 2019](#))

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

The Aims of Scouting

Every Scouting activity moves young people toward the basic aims of: character development, citizenship training, leadership, and mental and physical fitness.

What a young person learns to do—is important,
but not as important as the
primary goal:

Personal Growth

Achieved through participating in a unit program.

General Resources

[Age-Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities](#)

This chart provides an at-a-glance reference to activity guidelines that are based on the mental, physical, emotional, and social maturity of youth members.

[Guide to Safe Scouting](#)

The *Guide to Safe Scouting* is the unit leaders' guide to current policies and procedures.

[The Sweet 16 of BSA Safety](#)

As an aid in the continuing effort to protect participants in Scout activity, the BSA National Health & Safety Committee have developed 16 points that embody good judgment and common sense for all activities.

[Health and Safety News](#)

The Health and Safety Service provides periodic updates for Scouting leaders on a variety of relevant health- and safety-related topics.

Youth Protection

Resources for the [Cub Scout](#), [Boy Scout](#), and [Venturing](#) programs.

[Youth Protection Information](#)

[The Current of Three Rivers](http://www.threerivers1bsa.org/)—<http://www.threerivers1bsa.org/>