



# 2020 is officially Hind Sight...

*“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us”* –Ralph Waldo Emerson

What lies within a Scout?

Scout Spirit—  
Living the Scout  
Oath and Law  
Daily.



The three upraised fingers stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath.

The thumb and little finger touch. They stand for the bond between all Scouts

The Scout sign identifies you as a Scout anywhere in the world. Use it whenever you give the Scout Oath or Scout Law.

## Three Rivers POST

Please submit your comments, feedback or suggestions to [:japb@mindspring.com](mailto:japb@mindspring.com) Please include “Three Rivers Post” in the subject.

The intent of this newsletter is keep leaders informed and provide resources needed to support the mission of BSA Scouting.



### Inside this issue:

Duty to Country	2	Advancement	8
Service to Community	3	Scouting at Home	9
Duty to God	4	Unit PIN—Website Details	9
COVID Update	5	Flag Retirement	9
Scholarships	6		
Current Events Updates	7		
The District Overview	8		

*Scout Slogan*  
*“Do a Good Turn Daily”*

# Duty to Country—Scouts participate in Wreaths Across America!

## Wreaths Across America

Several units from around our District participated in the Wreaths Across America memorial event.

Wreaths Across America is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to Remember, Honor and Teach (Remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach the value of freedom).

The Ceremonies across America in all 50 states was coordinated with the ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

Last year 2019 2.2 million veterans' wreaths were placed in honor to those who served.

Thank you to the Scouts that participated. This year, 2021, will be the 30<sup>th</sup> year that veterans' wreaths will be placed at Arlington National Cemetery.



Note: Wreaths Across America in 2018 placed veterans' wreaths at Normandy-American Cemetery in France. Every year since 2008, Congress proclaims a Saturday in December as National Wreaths Across America Day.

If your unit desires to participate go to the [Wreaths Across America Website](#) and search for a specific cemetery that you would like to volunteer to help.



Let your District Leaders know, we can help you coordinate with an existing cemetery in our District or help with sponsoring a new cemetery.

[Link to Photos](#)



# To Help Other People at all Times—Service to our Community.

## Service to our community.

On Saturday December 5<sup>th</sup>, local Boy Scout units from the Three Rivers District (Troop 198, and Troop 100) provided community service to an elderly woman, and received so much more in return. Scout units were called upon to provide community service for a 91 year old who needed her yard raked from the fallen leaves. She watched from her window as young people worked hard in her yard. The scouts wanted to do so much more than rake up leaves, so they trimmed some hedges, removed an old stump and with the help of Attaway Tree Service (who happened to be in the area) removed a fallen tree from her backyard.

When the yard work was complete, she came out on her porch with the aid of her walker to thank everyone. She spoke in a gentle voice and expressed how grateful she was for the young people who cleaned her yard. She said she was not concerned about the future of our country as long as there are young people of good character and

ethics like those before her who will one day run our country. She is a former



teacher, and spoke as a teacher, sharing her wisdom. She left us with a final lesson, one that she shared with her former students, "this was not her class room it is ours". What a wonderful gift, her gentle words of wisdom at age 91, so well spoken. John Bryant, District Chairman, shared "I felt that I gave so little and received so much more in return." Mark Self, District Commissioner along with other adult leaders

attended to ensure the safety of our youth.

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 Law.

If you, or anyone you know is interested in learning more about the scouting program and the service it provides to our community please contact John Bryant at [japb@mindspring.com](mailto:japb@mindspring.com).

[Link to Photos](#)



# Duty to God—Growing in our Faith

## Religious Committee

### Declaration of Religious Principle:

The Boy Scouts of America maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God, and, therefore, recognized the religious element in the training of the member, but is absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude toward that religious training. Its policy is that the home and organization or group with which a member is connected shall give definite attention to religious life.

Our District Chaplain Anna Tucker is assembling our Districts' Religious Committee.

The District Chaplain has been charged to promote the religious emblems program, Train Troop Chaplains, prepare resources for our Troop Chaplains and Chaplain Aides, and to organize an outreach program that provides spiritual growth within the community. Details will be a collective effort of the religious committee.

In early 2021, there will be a coordinated effort to find, train and organize Troop Chaplains for

our religious committee, which will support our District Chaplain

this is the call someone from your unit has been waiting on, a call to



in providing resources and opportunities that will aide in our

support our District and our youth in growing closer to God and supporting them in their faith development. If you know of a leader in your Unit that is interested in serving as a Troop Chaplain please let Anna Tucker know.



understanding of "Duty to God". They will be available to assist units in developing and conducting unit religious services as part of their program.

Please let those in your unit know that the phone is ringing,

Email [pray4bsa.annatucker@gmail.com](mailto:pray4bsa.annatucker@gmail.com)

*"No man is much good unless he believes in God and obeys his laws. So every Scout should have a religion." - Robert Baden—*

# Safety—COVID-19 Update

## The New Year and COVID-19.

2021 is a few months away and it looks like we're going to bring COVID-19 into the new year with us for a few months. Operation Warp Speed was developed by the U.S. government with public and private partners, to facilitate and accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. Operation Warp Speed was announced on May 15, 2020. Currently several COVID-19 vaccines are in development, with phase 3 clinical trials being conducted for all but one. The first doses are expected before the end of 2020 for high risk people. Planning for a large scale distribution of the vaccine is underway. "Be-Prepared" to mask-up for a few more months into the new year and follow BSA reopening checklist/protocols.

The year 2020 has been a challenge for Scouters around the world, a challenge that they faced like hard working oxen moving at a steady slow pace, always heading forward to meet any and all obstacles in their path. A result of this hard work, several intelligent leaders working in the background have put together resources to aid us in re-opening our units in a safe manner, putting the outing back into scouting. Checklist and protocols provided by BSA Na-

tional for our use with our Chartered Organization to safely reopen is referenced below.

Lets welcome 2021 and prepare our units for an exciting adventure in Scouting!

Reference:

[CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[BSA Restart Scouting Checklist](#)  
[Operation Warp Speed](#)

[COVID-19: Are You at Higher Risk for Severe Illness?](#)

[Are you in the high risk category?](#) You might be surprised to see what is on the list found on the CDC website.

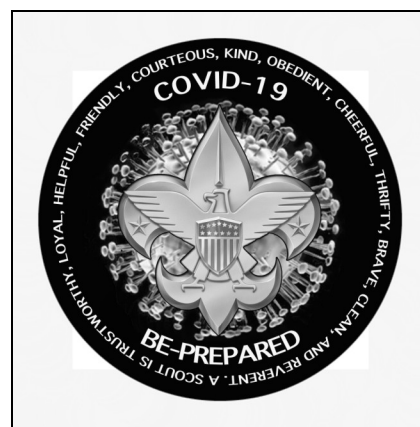
## Coping with Covid-19

[Series of Videos:\(Scouting.org\)](#)

1. [Message from BSA's National Director of Program](#)
2. [Time with Your Kids](#)
3. [Handling Stress Around Children](#)
4. [Guiding your Kids Through Disappointment](#)
5. [Assessing Mine and My Family's Mental Health](#)
6. [A Special Message to Grandchildren](#)
7. [Dealing with Signs of Loneliness and Anxiety](#)
8. [Recognizing Signs of An Abusive Relationship](#)

9. [Conflict With Not Going Out](#)

## COVID-19 Patch (Limited Edition)



Time is running Out—Deadline to earn this patch has been set. We will soon be reflecting on COVID, it will be a historical event in our past that we survived.

We have exceeded our Goal of 1000 Service Hours and trying to hit 2000 service hours.

Its not too late to earn this patch and supplies are limited and time is running out.

The deadline to earn this patch will be **May 11, 2021**, the date the first patch was awarded in 2020.

Checkout those that have earned this patch.  
([Click Here](#))

## Scholarships available.

---

### Eagle Scout Scholarships

For eligibility requirements and application procedures, please click on links below.



The Greater Alabama Council is pleased to announce that an Eagle Scout Scholarship Award has been established by the Charles Richard Byrd, Jr. family. This award is open to Eagle Scouts of the Greater Alabama Council, Boy Scouts of America. The scholarship is for \$1,000 to an accredited 2-year or 4-year school within the state of Alabama.

[Charles Richard Byrd Jr. Scholarship](#) (Download PDF)

[James T. Stephens Scholarship](#)

(Download PDF)

The Greater Alabama Council is also pleased to announce that two (2) to four (4) Eagle Scout Scholarship Awards have been established by James T. Stephens. These awards are open to Eagle Scouts of the Greater Alabama Council, Boy Scouts of America. The scholarships are for \$3,000 yearly for up to four years of college.

Listing of Other Scholarships Available on our Website. [Learn More](#)

## Current Events—Upcoming Highlights

---

### Winter Camporee

Winter Camporee is scheduled for February 19-21<sup>st</sup> at Whipporwill.

Theme will be “Leave No Trace”. Registration is Open.

Registration and leaders guide can be found on our website.

[Learn More.](#)



### District Schedule Changes.

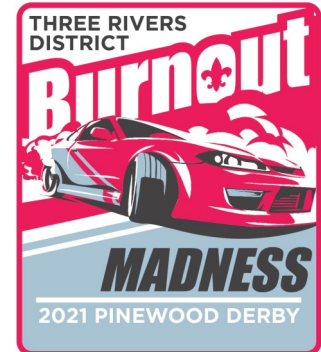
---

#### District Merit Badge Day

Merit Badge Day for 2021 will not be on the first Saturday of February as in has been traditionally in the past, due to increase in COVID cases. The District has made the commitment to make every effort to offer Merit Badge Day in-person where our scouts can be engaged in the learning process. As of the printing of this newsletter Merit Badge Day has been moved out to April. Details to come, please visit our website ([ThreeRivers1BSA.org](http://ThreeRivers1BSA.org)) and click on the link “Current Events” for the latest updates. If your interested in volunteering to support this event as either a helper, or a merit badge instructor, please reach out to Trey Finlay.

#### District Pinewood Derby

Pinewood derby has been moved out to March 27, 2021. This event will be in-person with limited numbers to support social distancing along with a live-stream to our district. Details are currently being worked out. If your interested in supporting this event as a volunteer please reach out to Robb Letts. Details will be captured on our [website](#) as they become available.



#### District Banquet

This event will honor first responders and will be in September. This is going to be a fantastic Awards Banquet. If your interested in volunteering to support this event please reach out to Robb Letts.

Units should be nominating their leaders for [Outstanding Scouter Award](#). Details can be found on our website.

#### Roundtable (January)

Roundtable—Theme will be **Pinewood Derby**. This will most likely be a zoom roundtable. Due to increase COVID-19 cases **we will not meet in-person**. Please join in and participate. Event details to be shared along with ideas for your upcoming Pinewood Derby and Pack Meetings. Date: January 7th.

---

# Your District Operations Overview

## We are here to serve our Units

### District Overview

The District leaders ensure the growth and success of our units. The areas of responsibility are broken down into four functions.

1. **Membership** – Works to grow Scouting in our community, they strive to recruit more youth into our program and retain those who are currently members. They build relationships with our chartered partners and work to create new scouting units in areas that are underserved. **Vice Chair (Shanika Lawson), DE (Brooke Yarbrough)**

2. **Finance** – Responsible for the financial aspects of Scouting. They assist units with their finances, help to provide fundraising opportunities and training on proper budgeting practices. They foster relationships with current supporters of Scouting and work to develop relationships with new supporters. They raise the funds required to get more families involved in our great program. **Vice Chair (Vacant), DE (Logan Black)**

3. **Program** – Concentrates on ensuring Scouts receive the mountain-top experience. They create and provide program experience for our youth. These experiences can include: Cam-

pores, Day Camps, Summer Camps, Merit Badge Days, etc... They work to ensure that every leader is trained and provide leadership trainings during the year. They help units leaders understand Scouting's advancement program and help our scouts on their journey to become Eagle Scouts. They promote and encourage attendance and participation in service projects, summer camps and other events.

**Vice Chair (Doris Henry), DE (Joshua Warren)**

4- **Unit Service** - This function is carried out through Commissioner Service. Commissioners are experienced Scouters who help chartered organizations and unit leaders achieve the aims of Scouting. Commissioners are the units leaders' best friend, they work with them, they provide coaching and consultation to help ensure the success of every Scouting unit. Each of the four functions have several sub-committees made up from District leaders. **District Commissioner (Mark Self)**

There is a special committee called the Nominating Committee which works year-round with the District Chair and District Commissioner to recruit and fill vacancies in the District Committee and Commissioner Corps. Currently the position for the Nominating Committee Chair is vacant with high hopes to have the

position filled by the end of January 2021

If you are interested in serving on our District Committee let either the District Chair for District Commissioner know. .

Please visit our website for:

[Listing of the District Committee.](#)

[Organization Chart](#)

[Learn More: The District](#)

### Advancement Update

JT Dabbs GAC Scout Executive/CEO issued an email on December 28th with a brief update on Advancement, including Time Extensions.

“Council Advancement Committees are advised that after Dec. 31, 2020, there is no plan to authorize COVID extensions as has been allowed during 2020. It is possible, however, that as of Jan. 1, 2021, COVID could become a circumstance that warrants an extension if it qualifies under the three tests listed in 9.0.4.0. Note that existing COVID extensions granted between Oct. 1, 2020, and Dec. 31, 2020, will expire three months after they were granted.”

[Read Email](#)



## Educational Activities while at Home

---

### Scouting @ Home

#### [Scouting At Home](#)

Resources available to units and Scouters on activities that can be done while at home.

Lots of helpful links. If you have your own set of links please share ([japb@mindspring.com](mailto:japb@mindspring.com))

### Unit PIN—Helping our Community to find-you.

---

There has been a recommendation by the District Committee to add a listing of all our units on our website. This will help our community find us!. The page is currently in-progress and needs your Units support. The page will contain your unit #, meeting schedule, chartered organization and contact information. Please review and submit any updates including your units personal webpage or FB page. Please submit updates to [Webmaster@3Rivers1BSA.org](mailto:Webmaster@3Rivers1BSA.org) to have it included. Thank You for your Support!

[View page here.](#)

### Flag Retirement

---

Boy Scouts of America is one of the very few organization that have an official code for flag retirement? Respect for our nation’s symbols are an integral part of being a reverent, responsible Scout; thus we have specific rules for the appropriate retirement of the United States flag. In fact, conducting a flag retirement ceremony is a very meaningful opportunity for Scouts and Scouters to reflect on the meaning of the flag as a great symbol of freedom.

The BSA Hand book states “A national flag that is worn beyond repair may be burned in a fire. The ceremony should be conducted with dignity and respect and the flag burned completely to ashes.”

If your unit conducts a flag retirement ceremony, we would like to hear about it.

[Link to Ceremonies and Flag Etiquette](#)

ScoutingWire—[Everything a Scout Should Know About U.S. Flag Retirement](#)



**Troop 4199, and Troop 5199**

### A Scout is Helpful

---

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

The Scout Oath states “to help other people at all times”.



## **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.

*On my Honor  
I will do my BEST*

## **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](#)

