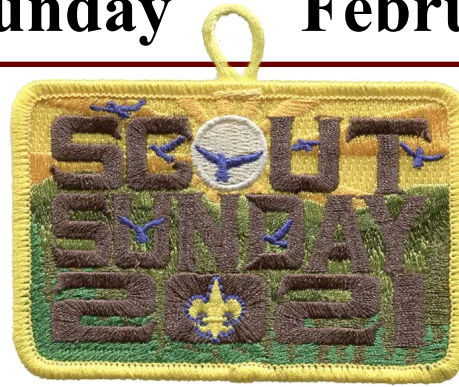




Scout Sunday February 7th



“No man is much good unless he believes in God and obeys his laws. So every Scout should have a religion.” Robert Baden –Powell, Scouting for Boys, 1908

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 God	2,3
COVID Update	4
Scholarships	5
Advancement News	6,7
Current Events Updates	8-11



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.

In 2014 R. Chip Turner, Chairman of the BSA’s Religious Relationships Task Force gave this response concerning religion in Scouting. “We should help Scouts and their families come to realize that a belief in God is integral to Scouting and is a key element in character building. This does not reflect a change in BSA policy nor does it place Scouters in the role of religious leaders.

By signing the membership application, each leader has already acknowledged the Declaration of Religious Principle which affirms a belief in God, calls for an appreciation for the faith of oth-

ers, and acknowledges the importance of faith in citizenship de-

ward religious training,” BSA affirms the importance a belief in



velopment. Moreover this same Declaration of Religious Principle is now included on the youth application form which is to be signed by the parents. All signa-

God in a number of ways. Here is a small sampling:

In 2014 Scouting provided Program Enhancements to affirm the importance in a belief in God. The changes in no way reflect a change in “duty to God” perspective by BSA.



By the beginning of the 2015-2016 Scouting year, each Cub Scout rank now includes a new family-based Duty to God adventure.

tories are also reminded that the BSA is absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude toward that religious training.

While Scouting is “absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude to-

Beginning in 2016 in Boy Scouts, Duty to God will be incorporated in the requirement to show Scout Spirit.

Duty to God ... continued

In Boy Scouts, participants at each review for rank advancement will be asked how they have done their duty to God since achievement of their current rank. It does not put the Scouter in the role of a religious leader nor does it empower this leader to accept answers only from his or her religious perspective. It does, however, provide an opportunity to acknowledge the importance of “duty to God”.

We have all likely heard horror stories of boys being asked in their Eagle Scout board of review about how they have done their “duty to God,” only to have the youth say they don’t believe in God. Equally disappointing is the example I heard of recently of an Eagle Scout who publicly admitted that he simply lied when asked about “duty to God” in his board of review.

Have we not somehow failed such a young person who apparently is not concerned about violating the first and 12th parts of the Scout Law? In my opinion, we have not delivered the full Scouting program if “duty to God” is first addressed at an Eagle board.

Religious Emblems Programs / RECs:

While all elements of these pro-

grams are prepared and administered by the various faith groups, BSA authorizes the wearing of the emblems on the Scout’s uniform. BSA has also authorized the adult positions of Religious Emblems Coordinator at unit, district, and council levels to help Scouts and their families to learn about and pursue the religious emblems of their chosen faith.

Chaplain:

The position of chaplain is encouraged at the unit level as well as for council camps and a variety of national/international Scouting activities such as jamborees, NOAC, and high adventure bases. For example, approximately 140 chaplains serve at each national jamboree.

Chaplain Aide:

This Boy Scout troop leadership role is intended to support “duty to God” in Scouting. Whether helping provide appropriate worship opportunities and devotional thoughts at Scouting events, including grace with meals, providing information on the religious emblems programs, or teaching respect for the religious beliefs of others, the Chaplain Aide has an important role in support of “duty to God.”

Yes, belief in God is a cornerstone of Scouting. As Scouters,

we have a tremendous opportunity to reflect this core principle while helping teach respect for the beliefs of others in pursuit of doing our “duty to God.”

[Article by Bryan Wendell October 3, 2014.](#)

Reference:

[Duty to God becoming larger part of Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting](#)

If you interested in serving as a Troop Chaplain or Chaplain Aide, please let Anna Tucker know. Our District is looking into providing specific training for these positions.

Email Anna if your interested. pray4bsa.annatucker@gmail.com



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 National 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.

[Learn more](#)



Scholarships available.

Eagle Scout Scholarships



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.

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.

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

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

[James T. Stephens Scholarship](#)

(Download PDF)

Listing of Other Scholarships Available on our Website.

[Learn more](#)

Advancement News

The latest issue of the Advancement News has been released and can be found at the following link ([January/February 2021](#))

Recent modifications:

Training Delayed. The December edition of *Advancement News* on page 2 refers to a “virtual introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST) and introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews (ILSC) which cover the same material but in an online format.” The release of this training has been delayed.

COVID-19 FAQ has been updated *effective January 14, 2021*. The full FAQ may be found at [COVID-19 FAQ](#). Scouters will want to pay special attention to changes to rank advancement/camping requirements and limited time extensions that may be granted by local councils.

In This Issue

On Increasing Advancement: Positions of Responsibility – Troop Leadership

- **Cub Scouts:** Blue and Gold Celebrations in 2021
- **Scouts BSA:** BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Awards

- **Eagle, Summit, Quartermaster Highlights:** New Eagle Rank Extension Requests Policy/Procedures
- **Sea Scouts:** Sea badge Opportunities
- **Special Needs Interests:** Joining Conference
- **Venturing:** Venturing Youth Trainings Available
- **Worth Repeating:** Revised Eagle Palm Requirements, 2017
- **Helpful Links:** Advancement Resources page highlight Troop Resource Survey

The newsletter provides some very helpful information concerning advancement and Unit activities. This issue lists the positions considered Troop leadership positions that a life scout must hold to meet requirement #4 of the Eagle Scout Award.

Also included are some very good suggestions around Blue and Gold.

“There is nothing sacred about February. Blue and gold may take place anytime during the year. Some packs hold a blue and gold in May as a ceremony for rank advancement. This ensures that all the youth have ample opportunity to complete their adventures. Cub Scouts are young children who rely on adults to help them complete

their activities. The goal is to create a path to success for them.”

...

New Eagle Rank Extension Requests Policy/Procedures

Effective January 1, 2021, local councils will have the authority to grant limited extensions of time to complete Eagle, Summit, or Quartermaster requirements. Scouts or their representatives must make the request to their local councils for time extensions beyond their 18th birthday to work on their Eagle Rank requirements (for Venture Scouts or Sea Scouts to work on their Summit Rank or Quartermaster Rank requirements, respectively, beyond their 21st birthday).

The topics regarding the new policies and procedures can currently be found at

www.scouting.org/advancement and will later be included in the 2021 edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (GTA), which will be published early in the year.

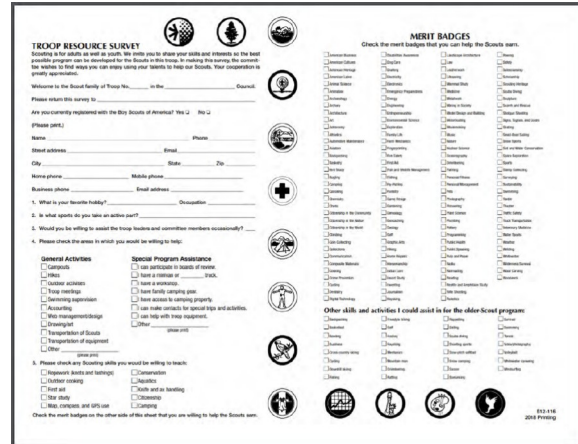
These extensions are only available to youth members who qualify under the three tests listed in GTA topic 9.0.4.0. The process for requesting a time extension is outlined in topic 9.0.4.1. An appeal process is covered in topic 9.0.4.2. Related forms for re-requesting either a time extension (11.2.0.0) or an appeal (11.2.1.0) are also posted on the website.

Advancement News ... continued

There is no plan to authorize future COVID-specific extensions as was allowed in 2020. COVID could be-come a circumstance that warrants a council-granted extension if it qualifies under the three tests listed in GTA topic 9.0.4.0. Note that existing COVID extensions granted between October 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020, will expire three months after they were granted.

Reminder: Upon turning 18, the Scout must complete an Adult Application, registering with Participation Code UP and Scouting position title Unit Participant, and complete Youth Protection Training.

Here’s how it works: (Read More in the [January/February Advancement Newsletter](#)).



The form is titled "TROOP RESOURCE SURVEY" and "MERIT BADGES". It includes sections for "General Activities", "Special Program Assistance", and "Other skills and activities I could assist in for the older Scout program". It also features a "MERIT BADGES" section with a grid of checkboxes for various badges.

Special Needs Interests

Joining Conferences

Reprinted article from the Fall 2020 issue of *Abilities Digest*.

Special needs and disabilities are all around us.

There are many of us who have disabilities, but by looking at us, one cannot tell. In the next few months, Scouts and Scouters will be either recruiting or joining a new unit. With that in mind, one of your personal goals should be getting to know each Scout, each family and the leadership better. You especially need to better understand, from either side of the table, when a Scout has a disability that presents the need for extra support.

If so, after a Scout joins a unit, follow up with a joining conference!

Joining conferences are at the crux of a successful tenure in the Scouting program.



Troop Resource Page

This very effective document is designed to include adults in the plans for the future outings and activities of a Scouts BSA Troop. As youth join throughout the year, their accompanying adult can be wel-

comed into the troop and asked to share their interests. This is a great place to start, or continue, their journey in supporting the Scouting program for their youth. This is also a great place for the troop to find out the hidden talents of the adults involved, and perhaps recruit some new merit badge counselors or fill additional support positions for the troop

Current Events—Upcoming Highlights

Roundtable (February 4th)

Roundtable—The Cub Scout topic is going to be Blue & Gold Banquet and the 30 Day Cub Scout Challenge.

Our District Chaplin Anna Tucker is going to have a presentation on recruiting Unit Chaplains, Scout Sunday, and Religious Emblems.

We are going to have a special guest Lt. Brewis from Post 5050. He is going to do a presentation on the Explore Post and the opportunity's they offer to our Scouts.



Addiction Prevention Coalition •February 5th

The APC Staff is currently working on writing notes of encouragement to those in treatment and we invite you to join us!!

We would like to put together as many encouraging Valentine's Day cards as we can and deliver them to people who are currently in Substance Use Treatment Programs around Birmingham.



We did this at Christmas and you all stepped up in a big way. We were able to deliver cards to The Fellowship House, The Foundry, Impact Recovery Center and Bradford.

We now want to cover the other locations, such as Alethia House and UAB Beacon Recovery!

You are invited to be a part of this project by hand writing positive notes of encouragement and delivering them to our office by **February 5th, 2021**.

We also want to invite people to come to the office the week of **February 8th** to help attach candy to cards and to help write out cards! Contact Shanika Lawson for details. sdlawson@hotmail.com

Current Events—Upcoming Highlights

Scout Sunday (February 7th)

Three Rivers District is planning a Zoom Scout Sunday Service to celebrate Scouting Anniversary Day. February 7th at 2 pm. If you or your unit want to participate in this event, either live or with video clip, contact Anna Tucker ASAP as she is putting together an awesome program.

All are invited to attend this Virtual (Zoom) Event.

Scouting Anniversary Day Celebration

February 7th @ 2 pm

Meeting ID: 850 8634 7383

Passcode: 745256

[\(Details can be found on our website\)](#)



Winter Camporee

Winter Camporee is scheduled for February 19-21st at Whipperwill.

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



Registration and leaders guide can be found on our website.

[Learn More.](#)

[Register On-line](#)

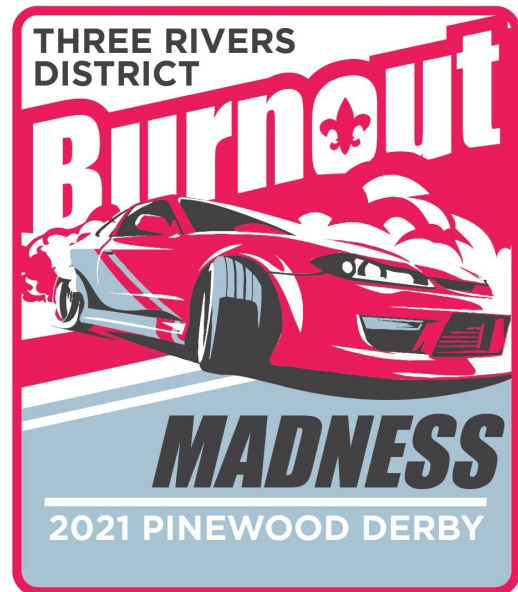


Current Events—Upcoming Highlights

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.

[Learn more](#)



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) 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. trey.finlay@hotmail.com



Current Events—Upcoming Highlights

Forestry Merit Badge Program

April 24, 2021

Turkey Creek Nature Preserve (TCNP)

As a reminder, this will be both a merit badge opportunity for Scouts BSA as well as an introduction to Forestry for Cub Scouts, moreover, scouting program made possible by several partners for availability to all youth. Addition details forthcoming.



[Learn more](#)



University of Scouting

Hold the date: March 20, 2021

Details Coming Soon.

Visit our Website

<http://3rivers1bsa.org/>



HONORING FIRST RESPONDERS

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.





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](#)

