**District Court of Honor**

April 8, 2021

The following awards were announced:

**Unit Scouter Award** - The Unit Scouter Award is presented to a limited number of persons from the district. The award recognizes volunteers for noteworthy service to the unit in which the awardee is registered. The award can be for excellence of duty, action during a crucial period, or sustained performance on behalf of the unit.

Pack 78 - Frank Farrugia

Pack 152 - Kirk Silva

Pack 187 - Robert Deal & Phillip Padden

Pack 656 - Christopher Hayes

Pack 675 - Carter Neuberg

Pack 882 - Matthew Leatherman

Pack 833 - Michelle Mahone

Pack 919 - Terrence Gabriel

Pack 976 - Lee Wilkinson

Pack 1116 - Keith Robinson

Pack 1139 - Jason Dalton

Troop 152B - Tim Sullivan

Troop 187 - John Ma

Troop 187 - Neil Guin

Troop 345 - Doug Stephon

Troop 349 - Thomas (TJ) Gilmore

Troop 895B - Tom Hanley

Troop 918 - Craig Cole

Troop 976B - Heidi Snyder

Troop 979 - Roland Burbano

Troop 987B - Gunnar Spafford

Troop 987G - Chris Hunter

Troop 1539B - Rob Skaggs

Troop 1887 - Dan Moore

Troop 1978B - Frank Anstett

Troop 1978G - Todd Lundquist

Troop 1996B - Chad Fulgham

**Unit Appreciation Award** - The unit appreciation award is a District award presented by a unit to a Scouter who has provided outstanding service to the unit and its youth.

Pack 152 - Ann Christopher, Brian Christopher, Krystal Salazar, Bob Etris, Tom Hazzard, Carmody Damon, Matthew MacLean, & Peggy Morrison

Pack 187 - Ryan O’Dell, Scott Sanford, Joshua Keithley, Allison Horton & John Carter

Pack 675 - Carrie Haase, Jessica Hull, Chris Glazner & Mary Stickelamaier

Pack 882 - Colin Dorrity

Pack 976 - Brian Havey, Andrew Fisher, Chris Lavery, Ken Lee, Pascal Forotti, Tyler Heimann, Dan Rinaldi & Jessica Herrera Flanigan

Pack 987 - Brian McCabe

Pack 1513 - Monica Montgomery & Doug Glenn

Troop 152B - Cindy Wallace, Mike Frank & Shelkim Crotty

Troop 187B - David Laun, Todd Christian, Travis Tempel, Cullen Bengtson, Jerry Orvedahl, Dick Talbert, Sheila Carney & Earl Roberts

Troop 345B - Fred Muhlenberg & Chris Rodriguez

Troop 349B - Linda Somogyi, Jim Rydell & Katie Neimi

Troop 681B - Karen Lacaden, Bill Pemberton & Christian Griggs

Troop 895B - Robert Kraus & Alison Shearer

Troop 918B - Steven Aden, Thad Pinney & Gary Cartwright

Troop 976B - Abe Bacarra, Tricia McCarthy, Stacy Blair, Pete Thiringer, Harry Rice, Fred Cheng, Gregory Beatty & David Chichka

Troop 979B - Chad McRae

Troop 987B - John Waterston, Randall “Randy” Weinhardt, Kurt Saffer, Peter Stapleton, Tong “Tony” Kwak, Louis Sichenze & Kathleen Sichenze

Troop 987G - Greg Gurski, Ann-Marie Johnson, Neil Johnson, Cary Hunter, Ronald T “Ted” Sienknecht, Jr.

Troop 1143B - Anandhi Ganesan, Suresh Dora & Chandra Bhimarajou

Troop 1539B - Christine Bodziak

Troop 1887B - Peter Stafford, Jeff White, Tom Pevarnik, Jack Gallagher, Brian Knapp, Bruce McKinstry, Derek Smith & Andrew Arrage

Troop 1888G - Catherine Bavido-Arrage & Anduin Touw

Troop 1978B - Janine Bruhn, Mike Miller, Peadar Harmon, Rita Galiano, Phil Root, Rob Gatehouse, Sharon Hughes & Steve Ward

Troop 1978G - Connie Lo, Patty Whepley, Zhen Lo, Lisa McKinley, Sharilyn Green, Mark

McKinley, Mary Neuse, Nick Manicone & Griff Green

Troop 1996B - Stephanie Oppenheimer

**Additional Unit Level Awards**

Barbara Hamill, New Unit Organizer, Troop 1888G

Dave Nystrom, New Unit Organizer, Troop 1888G

Roy De Lauder, New Unit Organizer, Troop 1888G

Brian Jackson, New Unit Organizer, Troop 1888G

Scott Willey, Scouter’s Training Award and Unit Leader Award of Merit

Abe Bacarra, Unit Leader Award of Merit

Gunnar Spafford, Scoutmaster’s Key

Brian Jackson, Scouter’s Training Award

**District Award of Merit** is presented by the District to Scouters who have rendered service of an outstanding nature to youth, both in the community and in Scouting.

***Brian P. Summers, Sr*** - Brian trained as our Troop’s Summer Camp coordinator during the summer 2016 and took over the job the next year, guaranteeing that the Scouts of Troop 1978 had the BEST WEEK OF THE YEAR! As the coordinator he has trained several leaders in the roles and responsibilities in both 1978B and 1978G Troops for this endeavor, thus ensuring that the Scouts would continue the adventures.

When his son, Brian Jr. was elected to the Order of the Arrow in 2017, Brian stepped up to take on the O/A Advisor position within the Troop. This led him to the District, and he has not stopped yet. He helped with several Ordeals, Camporees and Fellowships in various roles.

Brian was part of the N6-82-18-1 Wood Badge course earning his beads in 2019. Once he completed the course, he began working with the District on their Shooting Sports Committee eventually becoming the Chair in 2018. In this capacity he has overseen several shooting sports activities at Camp Snyder and Goshen. Both Cubs and Scouts have learned from him on how to handle Bows and Rifles, instilling in them not only a love of Shooting Sports but a respect for them as well.

***John Drisco*** - John’s service to the youth of George Mason District began in Troop 13 in 2008 as an Assistant Scoutmaster. John was Scoutmaster from 2009 to 2017. During his time as Scoutmaster, more than 20 Troop 13 Scouts earned the Eagle rank, including a youth that experienced a disability that required significant support from John and the other troop leaders.

John was an adult leader for patrols that attended both the 2017 National Jamboree and the 2019 World Jamboree. John has been a merit badge counselor for over 12 years.

John was a Unit Commissioner from 2008 to 2009. He supported the District Merit Badge Day in 2018. John led the District Merit Badge events in 2019, 2020 (cancelled due to Covid) and 2021.

John also has been a District Eagle Representative since 2018, working with Life Scouts who are completing their requirements for Eagle. John guides them on the Eagle Scout service project, reviews their Eagle application and participates in their Eagle Boards of Review as the Council/District representative.

**The Silver Beaver Award** is the council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. Upon nomination by their local Scout council and with the approval of the National Court of Honor, recipients of this award are registered adult leaders who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the council. The Silver Beaver is an award given to those who implement the Scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self-sacrifice, dedication, and many years of service. It is given to those who do not seek it.

***Rus Pittman*** has been a dedicated registered BSA Scouter for more than 30 total volunteer-years in the George Mason District of the NCAC. He has served as an Assistant Scoutmaster for 12 years, as a Merit Badge Counselor for nine years, and as a Unit Commissioner for five years.

Since 2018, he has served as the George Mason Roundtable Commissioner, coordinating, and leading these important monthly events for District Scouters and unit leaders.  In his nine years as a Merit Badge counselor, Rus has counseled Scouts in the Archery, Electricity, Emergency Preparedness, Fire Safety, Photography, Public Speaking, Pulp and Paper, Safety, Salesmanship and Space Exploration merit badges. In 2017 he assumed duties as the District Merit Badge Dean, a position he held until 2019. Rus taught merit badges at multiple District merit badge events, helping recruit other merit badge counselors and ensuring that the District events complied with Council and National BSA guidelines on merit badge group instruction.

In 2018 Rus volunteered his IT skills to the District Committee by serving as Webmaster which he continues to do to this day.  As a Scouter, Rus believes in the importance of being a Trained Leader. Rus attended Powder Horn in 2014 and in 2015, he attended Woodbadge, earning his bead a year later.  Rus was recognized by his peers for following the Scout Oath and Law by being nominated into the BSA Honor Society, the Order of the Arrow, in 2013. His recognition for selfless service resulted in Rus earning the District Award of Merit in 2020.  The George Mason District also recognized Rus in 2020 with the Schenaker Award, given to one Scouter each year for extended and outstanding service to the George Mason Roundtables.

**Order of the Arrow Vigil** - Alertness to the needs of others is the mark of the Vigil Honor. It calls for an individual with an unusual awareness of the possibilities within each situation. The Vigil Honor is the highest honor that the Order of the Arrow can bestow upon its members for service to lodge, council, and Scouting. Membership cannot be won by a person's conscious endeavors. The Vigil Honor is a high mark of distinction and recognition reserved for those Arrowmen who, by reason of exceptional service, personal effort, and unselfish interest, have made distinguished contributions beyond the immediate responsibilities of their position of office.

***Mary Neuse***

***Brian P. Summers, Jr.***

***Robert (Rory) Townsend III***

**Commissioner Awards**

2021 Commissioner Arrowhead - The Arrowhead Honor recognizes proficiency in the contemporary tools and techniques commissioners use to provide effective unit service.

***Brian P. Summers, Sr***

2021 Distinguished Commissioner - The Distinguished Commissioner Service Award is the highest recognition that can be given to a commissioner who has consistently engaged in distinguished and exceptional commissioner service resulting in significant, positive impact to youth, units, and a district and/or council.

***Christian Griggs***

Schenaker Award for Meritorious Service in Support of District Roundtables - This Award is presented by the District to a volunteer that provides meritorious service to the George Mason District Roundtables. The award honors Deb and Mike Schenaker who, beginning in the early 2000s when they joined the Cub Scout Roundtable staff, invested countless hours in support of the Cub Scout and Boy Scout Roundtables over more than 15 years. Deb and Mike set the standard for selfless support of the District’s Roundtables and unit leaders. We recognize each year a volunteer that follows their example of Roundtable support.

***Brian P. Summers, Sr***

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**Roundtable**

April 8, 2021

1. **Council Update /** Hector U & Steve B
	* Packs need to get prepared. Plan for the summer when things are opening up.
	* While there has been a decline Council-wide in the number of Cub Scouts, the George Mason District Packs have done better at retention and recruiting than most. Thank you for your efforts.
	* [**Covid-19 web page**](https://www.ncacbsa.org/covid-19/): The site has been updated. Please check back frequently for any changes. There is an updated NCAC Event Planning Guidance. Note the “cohorts” or “bubbles” of 10 or fewer people.



1. **Program / Matt B**
	* Current 2020-2021 GM Calendar
		+ April 11-24, 2021 – District Merit Badge Event
		+ April 30 to May 9, 2021 – District Hike-O-Ree
		+ May 8, 2021 – Jamboree on the Trail
		+ May 31, 2021 - Memorial Day Flags In
	* George Mason Hike-O-Ree 2021
	* Challenge – See if George Mason District Scouts/Scouters, family & friends can, collectively, total 2,021 miles. Participating units earn a ribbon.
	* Why – Good socially-distanced exercise one of any age can do while enjoying our wonderful outdoors. Keep youth engaged.
	* Who – Units (Packs, Troops, Crews) organize own activity, total unit hike, den/patrol hikes or family hikes. Your choice. Follow all Scout safety requirements.
	* When – Any hikes between 4/30 and 5/9/21 qualify. Hikes on May 8 also qualify for Jamboree on the Trail.
	* Where – Hike anywhere and keep track of mileage. Neighborhood, school track, park (local, state, national) or other, safe place.
	* How – Recruit a unit POC to collect mileage of unit members. After 5/9, e-mail unit number and mileage totals to Matt Burns (burnsmj509@gmail.com). Matt will publish total and distribute unit ribbons.
	* Flags In
	* Monday, May 31, 2021 – Starting at 10am
	* National Memorial Park, 7482 Lee Highway, Falls Church
	* Family event with social distancing – bring a mask
	* All Scouts, including Girl Scouts and family members, are welcome
	* Class A uniform please
	* For more information contact Russell Pittman at ruspittman@gmail.com
	* Civic and Related Activities of Interest to Scouts
	* Dyke Marsh Sunday Morning Bird Walks – 8:00 a.m. on Sundays. Hikes led by experienced birders. See website.
	* Fairfax City Fitness Challenge (3 April to 29 May). Register any time.
	* Great Falls Park – FREE Admission (April 17) Kick-Off to National Park Week/National Junior Ranger Day. See website.
	* Lakeside Explorers (April 22) – Burke Lake hosts newest nature club for youth (7 to 11 years old). Cost is $32 per child for four weeks. See website.
	* Huntley Meadows Monday Morning Birdwalks (start May 3) 7:00 a.m. on Mondays, rain or shine. Good activity for the summer vacation that could count for Cub Outdoor Activity Award.
	* Viva Vienna (May 29-31) – Rotary Club will be updating Vienna Town Council next week regarding plans for possible event. If it happens, it will be smaller and socially distanced.
	* Fairfax City Fido Fest (June 12) activities and demonstrations. See website.
	* Fairfax City Independence Day (July 3) – Daytime parade popular with Cubs. Other daytime events and evening fireworks.
	* 2021 District Merit Badge Event
	* April 11 to the 24th using Zoom. Classes meet twice a week for two weeks (four sessions).
	* Each class will consist of MB Counselor, second registered adult and 15 Scouts. Corsizio registration will be close on April 9, 2021.
	* Merit badges offered will include:
	* Public speaking
	* Electricity
	* Emergency Preparation
	* Citizenship in the World
	* Family Life
	* Feedback to John Drisco at gmasonmeritbadgeday@gmail.com
	* Future Camporees
	* George Mason Fall 2021 Camporee – October 15 – 17, 2021 - STEM/Site TBD
	* George Mason Spring 2022 Camporee – April 29 – May 1 – Theme/Site TBD
	* George Mason Fall 2022 Camporee – October 21 – 23, 2022 – Theme/Site TBD
	* Training
	* Unit Training – For position-specific training at your unit, contact Roy De Lauder at EagelScout.Roy@cox.net or go to the [Training page](https://www.ncacbsa.org/george-mason/mainpage/training/) on the GMD Web Site.\
	* Wood Badge Registration (Now Open)
	* Spring Course - *Register at:* *https://scoutingevent.com/082-42945*
	* Weekend #1: 30 April - 2 May; Weekend #2: 5 - 6 June ***(Postponed)***
	* *Course Director: Mr. Chris Geiger,* *geigercj@gmail.com*
	* Fall Course - *Registration Open 1 May, 2021*
	* Weekend #1: 10 - 12 September; Weekend #2: 9 - 10 October
	* *Course Director: Mrs. Alexandria Keenan,* *ADLKeenan@gmail.com*
	* Shooting Sports
	* Requests for Shooting Events – Lead Time!
	* 50+ scouts - 6mos
	* Less than 50 scouts - 3mos
	* Shooting on private land:
	* Requirements
	* Permissions/protocols
	* Shooting Sports web page
	* Shooting Sports Instructor Classes:
	* Rifle/Shotgun
	* Archery (Virtual classes available)
	* Merit Badges
	* Every merit badge counselor needs to be on the District Charter. The time for action is NOW!
	* The online Merit Badge Counselor registration works for all Scouters who do not already hold another District position.
	* Be sure the counselor uses his/her legal name – no nicknames.
	* Merit Badge Counselors, or the unit Dean/Leader, also need to scan and send Margee the Merit Badge application form listing the badges the counselor is applying to teach and providing a justification of his/her qualifications.
	* Youth Protection Training is the essential first step. Do not hit “send” on the application without it!
	* Contact Margee if you have questions at GM.MB.Dean@hotmail.com.
	* Courses Available:
	* **Online Merit Badge Courses** – Watch video, fill out workbook, contact Counselor
	* **Virtual Merit Badge Opportunities (Nation-wide)**
	* **Parktakes**(select “Scouts” from the Category of Activity)
	* **MeritBadge.Info** – Various MB Days throughout the country
	* **Fly Fishing Merit Badge Program**, Northern Virginia
	* **Merit Badges Scouts can complete at Home**
2. **Order of the Arrow /Mark S** – no report
3. **General Announcements**
	* Congratulation to all our awardees today. Thank you for all you do to support scouting.
	* Thank you to our professionals. Mr. Sam McGrath has move to the University of Kentucky for a new job. He was our District Executive for four years and did a great job. We wish him well in his new position. Our new District Executive (Acting) is Ms. Tonya Dobbins, Field Director, Virginia Central Service Area.
	* CoRs can change Unit positions for registered adults. By the end of the month, a new feature will be available in the Organizational Manager. This feature will allow the CoR (or CoR delegate) to change register adult positions. For example, if you have a Committee member that is moving to an ASM position, there will not need to be any paperwork for this change. The CoR/delegate can make the change on my.scouting.org.
	* Thanks to Matt Burns and his helpers. Great District COH presentation. Thanks for all your work pulling this together.
4. **District Executive Minute /Tonya D –** Please let me know of anything I can do to assist your Units.
5. **District Commissioner Minute /Hector U**
	* Congratulations to all the awardees and thanks to all our volunteers for your efforts to sustain and improve Scouting.
	* Many of you have been highly creative, during COVID, and found ways to keep the programs running. Thank you for your efforts and please share with others the great ideas you have used to keep moving forward.
6. **District Chair Minute /John K**
	* Congrats to all our dedicated volunteers. Your outstanding efforts and embracing of unconventional approaches to delivering the Scouting program resulted in retention of Scouts in our district.
	* The biggest drop in our Scout numbers was at Lion and Tiger levels due to the loss of Spring and Fall recruiting in 2020. With better weather allowing more outdoor program and easing of meeting restrictions now is the time to plan for Spring recruiting to attract those Lions and Tigers. Be unconventional in recruiting just as you were in delivering program and you will succeed again. The district is moving to support the units by adding service opportunities like the spring Scouting For Food drive, activities like Pi Day and more STEM activities to come and the Hike-O-Ree. Take advantage of them to supplement your own efforts.
	* At the Cub Scout Relaunch listening session one of the problems cited was the loss of unit fundraisers. Do you know about the Raisy program offered by Council? It is basically a digital version of the Entertainment Book. It sells for $20 and returns $6.50 to the unit. All the unit and individual sales can be promoted and sold online. No need to touch or handle any product or keep track of inventory. To sign up your unit or get further info check out this [link](https://fundraising.entertainment.com/boy-scouts-of-america-national-capital-area-council-082). This opportunity lasts until June 1.
7. **Next meeting** – May 13, 2021 at 7:30pm