

George Mason District Roundtable

May 13, 2021



Council Update

Cub Scout Summer

Camp Snyder/Service Projects



High Adventure Brief

Joe Knecht

GM District High Adventure Committee

Overview:

- **BSA High Adventure Mission**
- **End State**
- **Opportunities**
- **Recognition**
- **Resources/Planning Considerations**

- **May NCAC High Adventure Announcements**

Mission: The mission of Scouts BSA 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.

...the BSA High Adventure Program provides opportunities for challenging outdoor experiential education that supplements the BSA mission.

Why have a High Adventure (HA) program?

- Scouts learn more skills, self-reliance, and life lessons in the HA setting.
- Provides opportunities for Scouts (and Adults) to train for, look forward to, and rise to the challenge.
- In addition to the standard Scouting program, HA increases backcountry skills, confidence, and provides a logical path for advancement.
- Increases retention; provides visible goals for younger Scouts and Cub Scouts.

BSA High Adventure Bases:

- National: Philmont; Northern Tier; Florida Sea Base; Summit Bechtel Reserve
- Council: Maine HA Base; Adirondack HA Base; Lenhok'sin; Louisiana Swamp Base; Rocky Mtn HA Base; Teton HA Base; Chilkoot HA Base; etc.
- Pros: iconic experiences; professional support; treks can be tailored to crew; accredited camps; provisional opportunities
- Cons: expensive; often travel and time intensive



Unit-based High Adventure (local treks):

- Backpacking: Appalachian Trail; Tuscarora Trail, etc.
 - Canoeing: Potomac; Shenandoah; James; etc.
 - Kayaking/Sailing: Chesapeake Bay
 - Cycling: C&O Canal; Great Allegheny Passage, etc.
-
- Pros: inexpensive; local; allows maximum participation; can be great preparation for other HA treks; provides true scout-led high adventure
 - Cons: training intensive; significant planning requirements; increased risk management requirements



Recognition:

- BSA 50-Miler Award

<https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/50-miler/>

- Triple Crown Award; Grand Slam Award (National High Adventure Bases) <https://www.nationalhighadventureawards.org/about>

- Unit-specific recognition

recognition for multiple 50-Milers; one each backpacking, canoeing, and cycling. (e.g., Troop 681 Ironman Program)



Conclusion:

- There are limitless HA opportunities for Scouts across the spectrum of age and capabilities.
- HA treks require significant planning and coordination, but will create lifelong memories for Scouts and Adult Leaders.
- Units with active HA programs are best able to recruit and retain Scouts.

Questions?

GM High Adventure

(May 2021)



- NCAC High Adventure Committee (HAC) updates and announcements:
<https://www.ncacbsa.org/high-adventure/>
 - NCAC High Adventure Sourcebook (v. April 2021)
https://3.basecamp.com/3958009/buckets/16000091/uploads/3714603646#_recording_3743770604
 - Local day hikes, overnight, and multi-day treks:
<https://3.basecamp.com/3958009/buckets/16000091/uploads/3272427444>
 - Wilderness First Aid vendors:
<https://public.3.basecamp.com/p/6cocPGgDnFSay5nWMnTfPMzu>
- For those units planning summer 2021 HA trips:
 - Check with HA bases for COVID requirements (proof of vaccination or negative COVID test)
- Contact Joe Knecht at knechtjoe@yahoo.com if there are any issues accessing documents or you have questions regarding high adventure planning.

George Mason Program



Matt Burns, Vice Chair Program
Teralyn Carlson, Deputy Vice Chair
George Mason District



Current 2021 GM Calendar

- May 31, 2021 - Memorial Day Flags In (10am)
- October 15-17, 2021 – GM District STEM Camporee
- November 10, 2021 – Veterans 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.
- Have heard from the following units:
 - Pack 152
 - Pack 882
 - Troop 1978G
 - Troop 140
 - Troop 187
 - Troop 1887
 - Troop 918
- Looking for more unit reports. Please e-mail unit number and mileage totals to Matt Burns (burnsmj509@gmail.com). Matt will publish total and distribute unit ribbons.



Memorial Day (May 31, 2021)
Flag placement will start at 10:00 am

Flags In

- **Social distancing – bring a mask.**
- **National Memorial Park, 7482 Lee Highway, Falls Church**
- **All Scouts, including Girl Scouts, are welcome.**
- **Class A Uniforms**

For more info, 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.
- **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.

SCOUTS BSA Roundtable

Fall 2021 District Camporee

- District will hold its next Camporee on October 15-17, 2021.
- Location – 4H in Front Royal
- Theme - STEM
- Patches – Will be provided as part of Camporee.
- Plan to open registration in late July.



Future Camporees

- Save the Dates!!!
- George Mason Spring 2022 Camporee – April 29 – May 1, 2022
 - Theme and Site TBD
- George Mason Fall 2022 Camporee – October 21 – 23, 2022
 - Theme and Site TBD
- Please factor this into unit calendars/planning.
- Scouts are loyal – including loyalty to District activities.



Training

- **Unit Training** – For position-specific training at your unit, contact Roy De Lauder at EagleScout.Roy@cox.net or go to Training Opportunities page on GM Web Site.
- ***Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO):***
 - [05/20/21 & 05/23/21 – Camp Snyder](#)
 - [05/24/21, 05/27/21 & 05/29/21 – Gaithersburg, MD](#)
 - [06/19/21 – 06/20/21 – Huntingtown, MD](#)
- ***Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS):***
 - [05/21/21 – 05/22/21 – Camp Snyder](#)
 - [06/19/21 – 06/20/21 – Huntingtown, MD](#)
- **Red Cross Remote and Wilderness First Aid ("WRFA")** - May 22-23, 2021



Wood Badge Registration NOW Open

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



Wood Badge could be postponed or delayed based on covid restrictions

Wood Badge is the Boy Scouts of America's ultimate leadership training designed to meet the advanced leadership needs of Scouters in all aspects of the BSA, whether unit, district, or council level – from assistant den leaders to Scoutmasters, from Cubmasters to Venturing Advisors, from committee members to commissioners. It is a fun, energetic and inspiring course guaranteed to infuse your unit with fun and meaning – all designed to fulfill the mission of the BSA, and ensure our youth is getting everything they are promised from the program.

QUESTIONS?

For information about specific courses, contact the Course Director listed above.



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. Don't hit "send" on the application without it!
- Contact Margee if you have questions at GM.MB.Dean@hotmail.com.
 - [Online Merit Badge Courses](#) – Watch video, fill out workbook, contact Counselor
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- Have heard from the following units as of 5-12-21:
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 - Pack 675
 - Pack 882
 - Troop 140
 - Troop 187
 - Troop 918
 - Troop 1887
 - Troop 1978G
 - District Committee
- So far, total of 649 miles hiked.
- Will order unit streamers next week – delivery early June.
- Looking for more unit reports. Please e-mail unit number and mileage totals to Matt Burns (burnsmj509@gmail.com). Matt will publish total and distribute unit ribbons.



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STEM

- Check out the new GM District STEM page!
 - <https://www.ncacbsa.org/george-mason/stem-program/>
- World of Weird (WOW) Science Week – 12-16 July
 - STEM day camp for youth in grades K-5
 - Registration deadline is **31 May**
 - <https://scoutingevent.com/082-WOWscience>



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- ***Scoutmaster Position Specific Training***
 - [05/15/21 – Virtual](#)
 - [05/22/21 – Virtual](#)
 - [06/05/21 – Alexandria, VA](#)
 - [09/18/21 – Virtual](#)
- ***Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS):***
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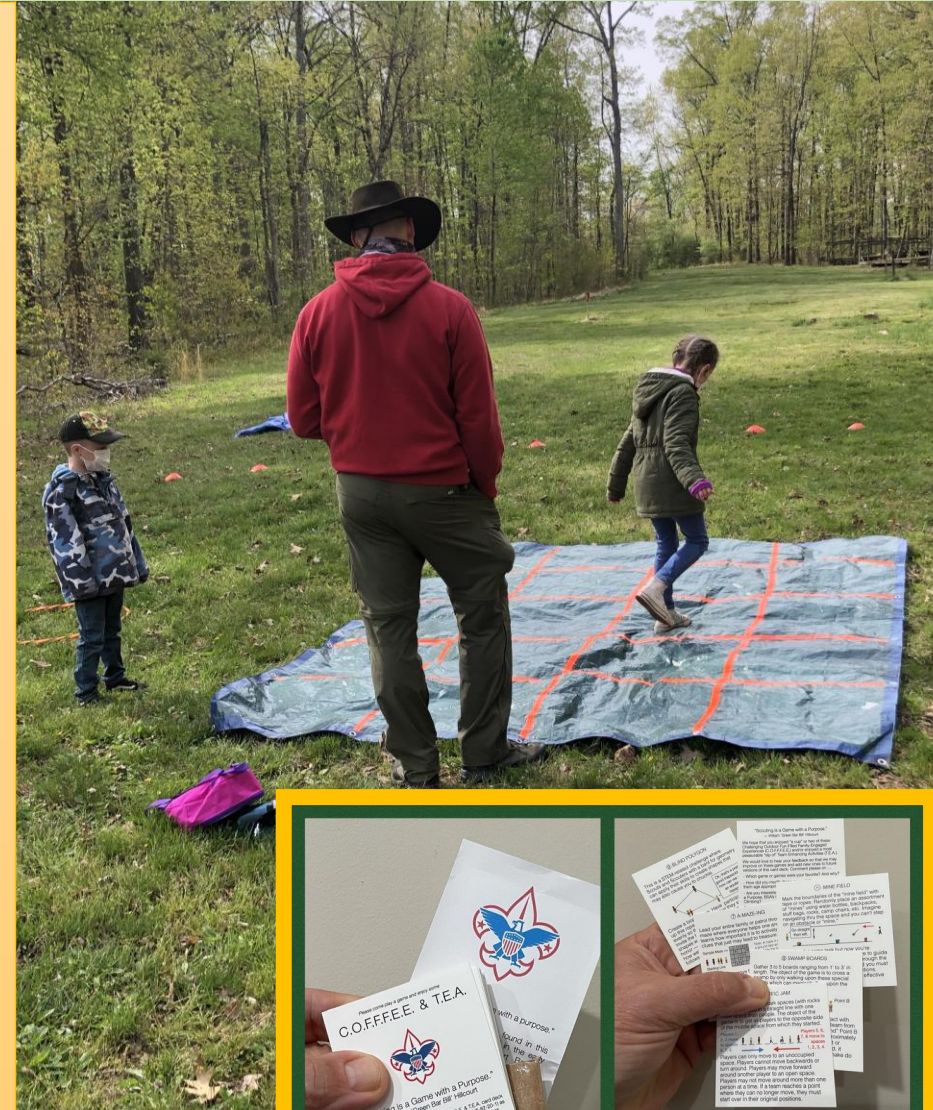




And don't forget the District's various COPE and Climbing Opportunities!

Where CUB Scouts learn about teamwork by playing Games with a Purpose
Boy and Girl Scouts learn how to lead their peers while playing these games
And our more senior Scouts, Venturers, and Scouters practice and refine their skills through Challenge Outdoor Fun-Filled Family Engaged Experiences & Team Enhancing Activities (a.k.a. COFFEE & TEA)

Level 1 & Level 2 training in COPE & Climbing programs need to be coordinated with COPE & Climbing committee chair: Tony Waisanen <ncac.cope@gmail.com>



Interested in obtaining a deck of COFFEE & TEA game cards, E-mail JohnLesko57@gmail.com



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Other Topics

- Order of the Arrow
- General Announcements
- District Executive Minute
- District Commissioner Minute
- District Chair Minute

- *Minutes and slides available on the GMD Website (District Resources, Roundtable)*
- *Next meeting/Program Launch – June 10, 2021 @ 7:30pm*