**Roundtable**

May 13, 2021

1. **Council Update /** Hector U & Steve B
	* Relaunch Cub Scouts – There was a significant drop in the number of Cub Scouts across the Council. George Mason District is doing better than most.
	* Funds available - $10K available for membership fees
	* Council Support – Can provide Facebook geofencing, yard signs and flyers (need two weeks notice)
2. **Cub Scout Summer /Steve B**
* Maintain activities during the summer.
* Don’t have to focus on advancement.
* Changes in electives in the Cub Scout ranks. Tiger/Wolf/Bear each losing four electives. Webelos will have 11 to choose from. More information will become available at <https://ScoutingMagazine.org>.

1. **High Adventure /Joe K**
	* MissionThe 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 we have a High Adventure 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
		+ 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: Troop 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.
		+ George Mason High Adventure
		+ 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](https://3.basecamp.com/3958009/buckets/16000091/uploads/3714603646)
		+ 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.
2. **Camp Snyder and Service Projects /Ryan Afford (Camp Ranger)**
	* Information about Camp Snyder is available at <https://GoToSnyder.org>
	* Camp Snyder is open.
		+ Weekend small groups (25 or less; two campgrounds can be co-located)
		+ Summer Camping
		+ Council Events – NYLT, OA, Cub Scout Bulls-Eye events, BSA Week (150 scouts; STEM Merit Badges – woodshop, archery, robotics, etc.)
		+ Service Projects
		+ Twice a month Sawdust Saturdays (service projects)
		+ Snyder can host small groups (less than 20) for small projects – e.g., stain and repair the ship, conservation or nature trail maintenance.
		+ Groups can also camp and work on a short-term service project
		+ Always in need of specialized skills – electrician, plumber, chainsaw, etc.
3. **Program / Matt B**
	* Current 2021 GM Calendar
	* May 31, 2021 - Memorial Day Flags In
	* 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 as of 5-12-21:
		+ Pack 152
		+ 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.
	* 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
	* 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
	* 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.
	* 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
	* 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 EagleScout.Roy@cox.net or go to Training Opportunities page on GM Web Site.
	* Leadership Training:
	* \*
	* *Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO)*:
		+ 05[/20/21 & 05/23/21 - Camp Snyder](https://scoutingevent.com/082-oddbaloo21s)
		+ [05/24/21, 05/27/21 & 05/29/21 - Gaithersburg, MD](https://scoutingevent.com/082-47149)
		+ [06/19/21 - 06/20/21 - Huntingtown, MD](https://scoutingevent.com/082-wsdiolsbaloo)
		+ *Scoutmaster Position Specific Training*
		+ [05/15/21 – Virtual](https://scoutingevent.com/082-PAXScoutmasterFundmentals)
		+ [05/22/21 – Virtual](https://scoutingevent.com/082-SPSTMay2021)
		+ [06/05/21 – Alexandria, VA](https://scoutingevent.com/082-47322)
		+ [09/18/21 – Virtual](https://scoutingevent.com/082-SPSTSept2021)
		+ *Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS)*:
		+ [05/21/21 - 05/22/21 - Camp Snyder](https://scoutingevent.com/082-oddiols21s)
		+ [06/19/21 - 06/20/21 - Huntingtown, MD](https://scoutingevent.com/082-wsdiolsbaloo)
		+ [06/26/21 - 06/27/21 – Lorton, VA](https://scoutingevent.com/082-IOLS)
	* 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*
	* 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)
	* COPE
		+ 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. COFFFEE & 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 COFFFEE & TEA game cards, E-mail JohnLesko57@gmail.com
	* 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**
4. **Order of the Arrow /Mark S**
	* Fall Ordeal October 1-3; combined with Patriot district or an Area event.
	* Brotherhood – next event is not scheduled. SMs would like to be added to the mail list.
5. **District Executive Minute /Tonya D**
	* We are working to fix issues with the MB Counselors. If you have specific issues, go to the MB Dean first.
	* April 30, all charter renewals were completed. Any pending charter renewals were removed from the system.
	* Cub Scout Launch – funding is available if the registration fee is all that is keeping someone from joining scouting.
	* Thank you for all you do and for your patience during the transition to the new District Executive.
	* Please let me know of anything I can do to assist your Units.
6. **District Commissioner Minute /Hector U**
	* Thank you, Tonya, for your support of the District.
	* Summer Camping/activities - Prepare for the summer and uses these activities for recruitment and retention activities.
	* Things are opening up. Next Roundtable meeting is Program Launch.
	* Let’s put together a good planning session for next year. Please include your Unit Commissioners.
7. **District Chair Minute /John K**
	* New District Executive (Jose) starts June 1.
	* Thank you for all you do at the Unit and District to make this a premier youth activity – especially during COVID.
	* Commissioner’s Arrowhead Award – Presented to Steve Banowit.
	* Day of Giving/Summer of Service – starts June 10.
	* Popcorn – training on May 26.
	* COVID Restrictions – Vaccine now available for 12–16-year-olds.
	* Scouters Digest/Facebook Site – highlight your scout’s accomplishments and fun activities on these sites. Send information to John K at johnkilduff42@gmail.com
8. **Next meeting/Program Launch** – June 10, 2021 at 7:30pm