



Scouters' News

February 2017 Volume 41 Issue 2

Great Trail Council, Boy Scouts of America, Akron, Ohio

Announcing new Great Trail staff

We are proud to announce the addition of **John Schlobohm** as our new Assistant Scout Executive. John is taking the place of Mike Panasiti. He is a 30-year career professional and has been serving the last five years as Assistant Scout Executive in Warren, and with prior councils in Mansfield, OH and Flint, MI. Welcome, John.

Also, please welcome our two new District Executives, **John Brkic**, a four year career professional, serving the Whispering Pines District in Youngstown, and **David Michalec** with one year in Scouting and serving the Arrowhead District in Warren.

We would also like to welcome our new Camp Ranger at Camp Stambaugh, **Nathan Plesea**.

The Great Trail Council family welcomes all of you!



Pictured above: Assistant Scout Executive John Schlobohm and Whispering Pines District Executive John Brkic.

How can your unit become a Family FOS unit?

- Unit leaders **pick a date in February or March** when your unit has a meeting with the best attendance (leaders, Scouts and families) - blue and gold banquets/courts of honor/awards banquets/pinewood derbies.
- **Contact your District Family FOS Chair** and coordinate to have a district presenter come to your meeting for a 7-10 minute presentation on our "107 Years of Scouting" FOS presentation. We want every family to have the opportunity to support our programs!
- Assign a unit leader to coordinate this process and orchestrate the follow-up with families not in attendance.
- Contact your district executive.

Winter Uniform Day is February 8!

It's time to use the best recruiters we have to bring more youth to Scouting and to tell everyone the BSA is alive and well here in Great Trail Council – that means we need to "suit up" our youth members to mark Scouting Anniversary Week 2017.

On **Wednesday, February 8**, we want to have every Cub Scout, Boy Scout and Venturer in the council to wear their uniform to school. Let's make sure our Cubs, Boy Scouts and Venturers wear their uniforms completely and correctly so they show only the best of Scouting that day. Sharp looking uniforms make the difference.

Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturers who participate in Winter Uniform Day will receive a new Winter 2017 Great Trail Council Uniform Day patch. See Scout Shop for these free patches.

Let's use our walking, talking billboards, our Scouts!

Merger update

How to get supplies—You can order by calling 330-773-4078, sherrie.hardesty@scouting.org or you can order from www.Scoutstuff.org. Fill out the online form at www.gtcbasa.org/forms/fax_order.pdf and fax to 330-773-4084. Scout Shop locations and hours are:

Camp Stambaugh Scout Shop—Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4-6 and Saturdays, 10-2. The phone number is 330-533-4538.

Akron Scout Shop—Hours are Monday-Friday, 9-6 and Saturdays, 9-1. The phone number is 330-773-4078.

2017 University of Scouting on March 4

The University of Scouting will be held on Saturday, March 4, at Ravenna High School. It is the largest supplemental training course offered by Great Trail Council to Scouting volunteers at all levels. During this fun-filled day, experienced volunteer leaders will present programs to help you improve your skills and expand your knowledge. You will also meet other leaders, gather new resources, and share ideas on building the best possible program for your Scouts.

Adults are invited to attend the college or colleges of their choice. Wear your uniform, if you have one. You may want to bring a notebook, comfortable shoes, money for the trading post, good will and a smile.

Create your own customized experience by choosing your courses. Register online at: <https://scoutingevent.com/433-uos2017>

Council Information

Council Annual Election notice

Council President Tom Geopfert has announced that Brad Bowers will serve as the 2017 Council Nomination Chairman for the May 8, 2017 Annual Meeting and election of board and officers. Nominations from the field can be sent to Council Nominating Chairman, P.O. Box 68, Akron, OH 44309-0068. No nominations will be accepted from the floor and must be submitted in writing by April 8, 2017.

Silver Beaver nominations

Chairman of the Council Silver Beaver Committee, **Jim Nilsen**, reminds all Great Trail Council Scouters that Silver Beaver **applications are due by March 10, 2017.**

Forms are available through your district executive. This is the highest volunteer award a council can present to an adult Scouter. The award will be presented at the Annual Council Dinner on May 8, at St. Thomas Orthodox Church in Fairlawn.

Wood Badge and NYLT Scholarship Dinner

Calling all Wood Badgers and past NYLT participants! Please join us for our 28th Annual Scholarship Dinner. We will be gathering on **Sunday, February 19**, at 12:30 p.m., at St. Paul Catholic Church (1580 Brown St., Akron) to celebrate and raise funds for future Great Trail Council Wood Badge and NYLT participants. Central Region Wood Badge Coordinator **Dave Savone** will be our guest speaker.

Be sure to register by February 6, to take advantage of the discounted rate of \$15 per person. Register online at:

https://scoutingevent.com/433-WBNYLT_Dinner

Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII

The Catholic Committee on Scouting will be conducting boards of review for Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius XII.

The boards of review will be held Saturday, February 25, at Archbishop Hoban High School, 1 Holy Cross Blvd., Akron from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Applicants for the religious emblems should make sure they have all of the required signatures. Please make sure they bring their completed books and applications to the board of review. Cost for the medals will be \$11. Checks are to be made payable to DCCS.

The award ceremony will be in April. Details will be mailed to the award recipients upon completion of the board of review.

For more information email ccs@gtcbsa.org.

2017 Scout Ski Days—February 25 & 26



Join us at Boston Mills/Brandywine and Alpine Valley for a weekend of skiing, snowboarding, and tubing during the annual Scout Ski Days!

Where: Boston Mills/Brandywine/Alpine Valley Ski Resorts and PolarBlast Snowtubing

What: Exclusive discounts on Snowpasses, tubing sessions and rental packages for the Boy and Girl Scouts.

Registered participants are eligible for the following discounts:

\$28—All Day Lift Only

\$50—All Day Lift, Rental, 1-hour beginner lesson

\$20—3-hour tubing session

When: **February 25 and 26**

How: Register by **February 23** to attend this event. To pre-register, complete the form at

<http://www.gtcbsa.org/events/2017SkiDaysFlyer.pdf>

or in unit saddlebags with your desired ticket order and submit **WITH PAYMENT** to the Group Sales office at Boston Mills/Brandywine, PO Box 175, Peninsula OH 44264. Forms and payment may be submitted in person at Boston Mills prior to February 23. Skiing/Snowboarding tickets are valid at all three resort locations.

Beginner Intro Group Lessons will be held 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Saturday, and Sunday at BRANDYWINE and ALPINE VALLEY (lessons are not required to participate in the Scout Days) and cost \$5 per person. In addition, Merit Badge Lessons will be offered at 2 p.m., Saturday and Sunday@BRANDYWINE AND ALPINE VALLEY ONLY for \$15. There will be **no** lessons available at BOSTON MILLS. Helmets are available to rent for \$10. Boston Mills/Brandywine/Alpine Valley will provide PSIA/AASI certified instructors to fulfill the lesson requirements of the Snowsports Merit Badge; written portion of exam to be completed through your council.

Questions? Call 1-800-875-4241 ext. 2021 or email groups@bmbw.com.



Council Information

Fundamentals of Training/Trainer's Edge

The Fundamentals of Training and the Trainer's Edge is a two part training conference that will be held on **March 25**, at Camp Manatoc's **Lewis Conference Center**. Fee is \$15.

The Fundamentals of Training introduces new Scouting trainers to teaching techniques and skills, and helps freshen the training techniques of experienced trainers.

Trainer's Edge provides further experience for trainers to enhance their abilities and it supplements the training development for advanced leadership courses, such as Wood Badge and NYLT.

Pre-course prep: All participants must prepare a 10 to 12 minute presentation on a topic from any BSA material. You will receive constructive feedback.

Questions? Contact **Gary Hunsicker** at 330-724-9406 or grhunsicker@gmail.com.

Online registration is at:

<https://scoutingevent.com/433-edge2017>

Check out NYLT 2017

- ◆ NYLT is offered June 11-16, 2017 at Camp Butler.
- ◆ NYLT is an exceptional training opportunity for youth who are members of Boy Scout troops and Venturing crews. It is an exciting action-packed program designed to provide all youth members with leadership skills and experience they can use in their home troops and crews.
- ◆ Each troop or crew can reserve up to **five** slots for the course.
- ◆ NYLT is a six day, co-ed course with content being delivered in a troop and outdoor patrol setting.
- ◆ Please consider for attendance your youth who are presently holding leadership positions within your **troop** (minimum 13 years old on the day the course begins **and** First Class **and** has completed "Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops") or **crew** (minimum 14 years old **and** completed "Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews" **and** "Crew Officer Orientation").
- ◆ This course is presented by a well-trained youth staff.
- ◆ Registration will be made **online only**.
- ◆ Space is limited to 144 participants, please sign up early.
- ◆ There can be no exceptions to the requirements listed above.
- ◆ Registration is now available by going to <https://scoutingevent.com/433-gtcnylt>

Eagle Scout application approval

The application needs council approval before the Scout's 18th birthday and prior to the board of review. All signatures (Scoutmaster and committee chair) must be on the application at time of council approval. The application may be scanned and emailed to Megan King in the Akron office at megan.king@scouting.org, faxed to 330-773-4084 Attn: Megan King, or brought to the Akron office, 1601 S. Main St., Akron. Megan is in the office Monday – Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. If you bring the application to the office, she will check it while you wait (approximately 5-10 minutes!)

Completed Eagles in Arrowhead and Whispering Pines Districts

After the board of review, Eagle applications and project books can be dropped off at Camp Stambaugh's Rotary Cabin on Tuesdays from 4-6, Thursdays from 4-6, and Saturdays from 10-2 to be transported to the Akron office. The books may also be mailed to the Akron office (Great Trail Council, PO Box 68, Akron, OH 44309-0068.) We would suggest making a copy of all contents, just in case something happens to get lost in the mail, you may also scan the book in its entirety and email it to Megan King (megan.king@scouting.org). For any questions, please contact Megan directly via email or 330-773-0415, ext. 215. Please Note: after reviewed and approved by National you will be notified that your book and materials from National will be ready for pick up. You must fill out a form (when you drop off the book) letting us know if you will pick up at the Akron office or at Camp Stambaugh during the designated times. Eagle kits can also be picked up at the Akron office (1601 S. Main St., Akron, OH 44301) or Camp Stambaugh (please see store dates and times). Due to the loss of grants, after 3/31/17 kits will no longer be free, the cost will be \$29.99.



Council Information

Why not come to Camp Manatoc for a second week this summer?



Camp Manatoc will offer a special week, July 16-22, for Scouts who wish to come to camp for a second week. The cost is only \$200 and we'll provide the adult leadership. Scouts can work on more merit badges, STEM merit badges, Scout Lifeguard, special night programs and lots of fun.

A special provisional troop made of Scouts from all over the council will team up to make this one-week troop with leadership from camp.

If you haven't attended Camp Manatoc earlier in the summer you will still be able to attend. The week is July 16-22 and the cost is \$255. Check us out at www.manatoc.org.

Webelos Resident Camp— 4 days and 3 nights of fun!



The Best Webelos Resident Camp in Ohio is set for **July 23-26** and **July 26-29** at our own Camp Manatoc with Webelos only in camp those days. We also have a new Camp Director, **Chuck Defer** and he will be assisted by the Manatoc camp staff.

Webelos Resident Camp is a great opportunity for Webelos Scouts to experience the adventure waiting for them in a week of Boy Scout summer camp. It's days filled with exciting activities like swimming, boating, rafting, archery, bb-gun marksmanship, hiking, fire building, and working on Webelos Advancement Adventures!

Campers sleep in BSA canvas tents on wooden platforms, just like our Boy Scouts do, and **camp as a unit under their own adult leadership.**

Most meals are served, family-style, in the historic dining hall and every day features our camp's traditional "Pass in Review" retreat ceremony at the Butler Memorial.

Time at Webelos Resident Camp equals a whole school year's worth of den meetings so, Webelos den leaders and Webelos parents, now's the time to start making Webelos Resident Camp a part of your summer plans.

Cost is \$165 per Webelos Scout and \$95 per adult if paid on or before July 14.

Registration brochures are available in the lobby of the Scout Service Center and are posted online at www.manatoc.org.

Make plans now and we look forward to seeing your first and second year Webelos Scouts at resident camp this summer!



Summer Camp Leader's Meeting

Scoutmasters! It's time to bring your SPL to the annual Summer Camp Leader's Meeting for troops attending Manatoc this coming summer!

It's set for **Saturday, April 22**, 9 a.m. till about 10:30 a.m., at the Camp Manatoc Dining Hall. We will offer "all you can eat" breakfast at 8 a.m. Cost is \$8 per person at the door for breakfast.

Once again, we'll be offering the **BIG PRIZES** for Scoutmaster and SPL attendance at this important meeting.

The Scoutmaster attendance prize drawing will be for a brand-new 5-gallon Coleman drink cooler! This prize will be a great addition in your campsite.



The Senior Patrol Leader attendance prize drawing will be for a pair of new Coleman lanterns! These will be great to light up your campsite this summer.

These drawing prizes are gifts for **your troop**, not the SM or SPL personally. But remember, the only way to get in the drawing is to be in attendance at the April 22 meeting.

Again, our meeting starts at 9 a.m., and we will be covering many of the details of camp including our 2017 theme, new merit badge offerings, a revised daily instruction schedule, and some new optional program activities. **We'll see you April 22 at camp!**

2017 Summer Camp Apprentice program



Our outstanding summer camp staff development program (camp apprentices) returns again in 2017.

Fees for the 2-week program are \$100 per participant. CIT's receive room and board, food, staff

t-shirt, and a great experience learning what it takes to be a member of the Manatoc Summer Camp Staff.

Applications are available at:

http://www.manatoc.org/summer_camp.html

Questions? **Contact Director of Camping Chris Bergdorf at 330-657-2418 or by email at manatocbutler@windstream.net.**

Council Information

Recruit a Scout— for a lifetime experience

What better program can a young person join than the Scouting program? Scouting definitely provides a real alternative to joining a gang! For years Scouting has been supportive to family, church, and school in the socialization of young people to life and living.

As dedicated Scouters believing deeply in the purpose of our movement we must aggressively pursue recruitment of Cubs and Scouts in our traditional Scouting program. Traditional Scouting remains the pillar and backbone of our council. It lays the foundation for future generations as a boy or young man develops a commitment to duty to God. This is underscored in our Oath and Law.

Through Scouting's advancement, camping, and training programs, we teach young people the setting and achievement of short, medium and long range goals. As a result, they experience the thrill of accomplishment, provide hope and self-confidence, and develop self-esteem. The role models that our adult volunteers provide in developing youth form the pattern of life for them which has lasting value. Scouts really do learn skills and values which last a lifetime.

Webelos dens begin visiting Scout troops

For one to four years, Cub Scout leaders work on the ninth purpose of Cub Scouting: "preparing them to become Boy Scouts." During the fifth-grade Webelos Scout experience, this transition from pack to troop becomes even more important. The Webelos Scout is comfortable with his peers and may be hesitant about leaving his friends and entering a new environment with older boys.

One effective means of easing this transition for the Webelos Scout is a visit to the Boy Scout troop. Visiting a troop and experiencing a feeling of welcome by the troop members goes a long way toward all Webelos Scouts becoming Boy Scouts. We believe the best time for this graduation is in February/March. Below are some ideas that may be helpful toward graduation.

- Identify troops wanting to establish new Scout patrols.
- Arrange contact between Webelos den leaders and Scoutmasters to implement your plan.
- Have the Webelos attend a troop meeting.
- Plan a graduation ceremony for the Webelos at their February/March pack meeting.
- Make sure your Webelos join a troop.

February leader checklist

Cub Scout Pack Checklist

- Recruit a camp chairperson.
- Prepare for camp sign-up in February, March or April.
- Turn in remainder of new boy and leader applications.
- Turn in charter if not already completed or start the process of rechartering for March charter districts.
- Prepare for pinewood derby.
- Prepare for blue and gold banquets.
- Identify leaders that need training and schedule date.
- Attend roundtable.
- Conduct your unit's Family FOS presentation.

Boy Scout Troop Checklist

- Sign up for summer camp.
- Identify leaders that need training and schedule date.
- Turn in charter if not already completed or start the process of rechartering for March charter districts.
- Attend roundtable.
- Sign up for NYLT to be held at camp.
- Conduct your unit's Family FOS presentation.

Webelos

Webelos Scouts who are in their final year in the pack should be completing their Arrow of Light requirements in the next few months. Webelos leaders and Scoutmasters should be arranging visits to facilitate these Arrow of Light requirements:

1. Webelos Scouts visit a Boy Scout troop with their den.
2. The Webelos Scouts visit a Boy Scout troop with their parent or guardian.
3. The Webelos Scouts visit a Boy Scout troop at an outdoor activity.
4. The Webelos Scouts fill out a Boy Scout membership application.

If you are not sure who leads the Cub Scout pack, the den, or the Scout troop, ask your commissioner or district executive. They will help you contact the other unit so that this important process can start.

Remember, as soon as a Webelos Scout earns his Arrow of Light, he is eligible to join Boy Scouts and start the next phase of the Scouting adventure.

Council Information

Working successfully with your unit committee

The real strength of a unit can often be an active and involved unit committee. An effective committee will help support the unit leadership and often make their job much easier. This is a great opportunity to involve more families in the on-going operation of your unit. When parents are active you will begin to find more interested and involved Scouts. Your goal should be to involve as many parents as possible in your pack or troop.

The unit committee can take on many of the administrative responsibilities of your unit. Financial record keeping, advancement reports and ordering of badges, and membership records are just a few of these responsibilities. Select a different coordinator for every special event your unit has during the year: blue and gold banquet, pinewood derby, pack picnic, unit popcorn sales, and day camp coordinator are just a few ideas to get you started. Your unit probably has many more special activities and events during the year. These are usually short term responsibilities that may only take a month or two to complete. Other more long term responsibilities might include a publicity chairman, newsletter coordinator, etc.

Be sure that each member of your unit committee understands their responsibilities. Involve the committee in working with your leaders in program planning. You will be surprised at all the resources that are available in your unit. There are parent talent surveys for packs, and troop resource forms available at the Scout Shop to help you complete this. These forms also provide opportunities for your parents to indicate what kind of activities they are willing to help with.

Your unit leadership and your unit committee are a team. Working together, they will be able to organize and support an excellent unit program. You will be promoting parental involvement in Scouting. When you achieve this, each of your families will be involved in the kinds of programs and events they want for their son. And in the end, the Scouts in your unit will be the beneficiaries.



Tributes & Memorials

In Memory of: Charlotte Horvath
From: The Fahringer Family
 Ted Kannen Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Johnson
 The Dindo Family
 Matthew, Denise & David Fresh
 Ricky & Kathryn Herbert
 John & Mary Jo Regennitter
 The Kroeger Family
 Katherine Ertle
 Tim, Pam, Jaclyn & Justin Knight
 David & Donna Axson & Family

Eagle's Nest



	Troop	Eagle Date
Carter Arbogast	380	12/12/16
Brandon Bennett	556	12/28/16
Zachary Bloom	177	12/07/16
Jared Butcher	556	12/07/16
Dominic Congeni	380	12/19/16
Theodore Durbak	556	12/08/16
Casey Hartung	558	12/15/16
Jared Johnson	556	12/20/16
Christopher Jones	553	12/22/16
Ian Kausch	385	12/08/16
Dean Manning	385	10/01/16
Jacob Murray	1	12/15/16
Michael Stephenson	559	11/30/16
Evan Vamosi	118	11/22/16
Brandon Wengerd	16	12/07/16
Noah Zona	520	12/18/16
Spencer Zuppert	511	12/06/16

Council Information

From the Registration Desk...

Chartering Info

Chippewa and Old Portage Districts have had their charter pick-up and training. Your charter window opened Thursday, January 12. You must have your charters turned in at the Thursday, March 9, roundtable.

Tri-Fires and Seneca charters were due at the January 12, roundtable. Moe and Lakes charters are due at the February 9, roundtable.

In order for charters to be processed at the council office you must turn in the Charter Renewal Application, apps for new youth; apps, disclosure forms and YPT for new adults; YPT certificates for those needing YPT and money or approval to take out of your unit's Scout Shop account. The Renewal Report EZ or the draft copy of the charter **WILL NOT** be accepted. Any required information that is not turned in will delay the processing of your charter. If you have any questions, please call me as soon as possible.

Welcome Arrowhead, Whispering Pines and GWR Pathfinder Districts

Welcome to the Great Trail Council. We want to do whatever we can to make this transition as easy as possible for you. Just a few things to be aware of: we do not have access to your unit or personal information as it has not been transferred to our council system by the national office and it will take some time to go through charters, registration, training and advancements. The transfer of information should take place in mid to late February. Until then if you have any questions, please email me at the address below and I will answer your questions as quickly as possible. More information will be available in the near future that will help you with this transition. Your patience during this process is greatly appreciated.

If you are registered as a district leader or merit badge counselor your registration will be renewed automatically this year. Our district leaders' registration expires May 31, and merit badge counselors expire on August 31. A notice has been mailed out with information regarding your current renewal and the GTC renewal time frame. If you have any questions, please let me know.

If you have any questions regarding registration, chartering, training records or internet advancements, or any of the above changes, please contact Council Registrar Pat Gaugler at 330-773-0415 ext. 210 or email pat.gaugler@scouting.org

2017 Charter Time Frame

	2017 Time Frame
Moe Charters MUST be turned in by Thursday, February 9	Charter Training & Pick-Up —Thursday, December 8, 2016—Roundtable, 7:15 p.m., St. Stephen Church <i>The access code will be in your unit's Charter Packet. Charter window opens December 8, 2016</i> Recharter Turn-In Party —Roundtable, Thursday, February 9, 2017, 7:15 p.m., St. Stephen Church
Lakes Charters MUST be turned in by Thursday, February 9	Charter Training & Pick-Up —Thursday, December 8, 2016—Roundtable, 7 p.m., Prince of Peace Church, Barberton <i>The access code will be in your unit's Charter Packet. Charter window opens December 8, 2016</i> Recharter Turn-In Party —Roundtable, Thursday, February 9, 2017, 7 p.m., Prince of Peace Church, Barberton
Chippewa Charters MUST be turned in by Thursday, March 9	Charter Training & Pick-Up —Thursday, January 12, 2017—Roundtable, 7 p.m., Medina United Methodist Church, Medina <i>The access code will be in your unit's Charter Packet. Charter window opens January 12, 2017</i> Recharter Turn-In Party —Roundtable, Thursday, March 9, 2017, Medina United Methodist Church, Medina
Old Portage Charters MUST be turned in by Thursday, March 9	Charter Training & Pick-Up —Thursday, January 12, 2017—Roundtable, 7 p.m., Faith Lutheran Church, Akron <i>The access code will be in your unit's Charter Packet. Charter window opens January 12, 2017</i> Recharter Turn-In Party —Roundtable, Thursday, March 9, 2017, 7 p.m., Faith Lutheran Church, Akron

Great Trail Council phone numbers

Council Office - 330-773-0415 plus extension number
 Camping—Peggy—Ext. 221
 Commissioners—John—Ext. 213
 Endowment—Mike—Ext. 238
 Exploring—Tom—Ext. 239
 FOS/Popcorn—Lisa—Ext. 243
 Medical Insurance—Bill—Ext. 243
 NYLT/Wood Badge—Dennis—Ext. 214
 OA—Shannon—Ext. 217
 Pathfinder—Dennis—Ext. 21
 Registration/Recharter—Pat—Ext. 210
 Special Camp Rentals—Chris—330-607-6376
 Training Cub Scouts—Shannon—Ext. 217
 Training Boy Scouts—Tom—Ext. 239
 Venturing—Dennis—Ext. 214
 Other—Pat—Ext. 210

Council Information

2017 Friends of Scouting

Council Friends of Scouting Kick-Off
Featuring: Ken Babby, Owner, Akron
RubberDucks

Chip Billow, Fleur de Lis Chairman, CEO Billow
Funeral Home



Thursday, February 23-5:30 p.m.
Canal Park(Duck Club)-Home of the Akron
RubberDucks

300 S. Main Street, Akron, Ohio
RSVP-Megan King 330-773-0415 ext. 215
megan.king@scouting.org

For 107 years Scouting has taught young people the virtues of honor, respect, character, healthy living, and a true sense of citizenship through the principles found in the Scout Oath and Law.

The Great Trail Council prides itself on teaching these virtues through our outstanding programs, leaders, and facilities. We truly are “delivering the promise!”

Please help us continue this incredible tradition by becoming a “Friend of Scouting.”

How can your unit become a Family FOS unit?

- * Unit leaders pick a date in February or March when your unit has a meeting with the best attendance (leaders, Scouts, & families), blue & gold banquets/courts of honor/awards banquets/pinewood derbies.
- * Contact your District Family FOS Chairman and coordinate to have a district presenter come to your meeting for a 7-10 minute presentation on our “107 Years of Scouting” FOS presentation. We want each and every family to have the opportunity to support our programs!
- * Assign a unit leader within your unit to coordinate this process and orchestrate the follow-up with families not in attendance.

To make an online donation, please go to
<https://scoutingevent.com/433-FOS2017>

Watch our new Family FOS video

Boy Scout National Camp Card Sale



\$10.00 card...units make \$5.00 per card!
All new “Limited Edition” cards
with over 200,000 offers!
Free App for your smart phone
Offers good anywhere you travel!

The Great Trail Council is pleased to announce the ALL NEW 2017 “Camp Card” Sale. This sale is designed to help Scouts earn their way to Great Trail Council’s summer camp, day camps, high adventure treks, jamboree, or resident camps.

Our 2017 Great Trail Council Camp Card will be **sold for \$10.00**. Consumers will be able to get access to over **200,000** offers in your hometown and throughout North America using a custom BSA website powered by the “Entertainment Discount Network.” **Enjoy up to 50% savings on dining, shopping, attractions, travel, services, and online deals.** Simply register your card online and print your savings or redeem at the merchants by showing the app on your Smartphone.

Each card includes
2 special offers (front tabs)
Offers TBA

Units participating in this program will **earn 50% commission** (\$5.00) on each \$10 Camp Card they sell. The sale will be promoted in January/February. Units sign-up in February. Receive cards in March and can sell until May, giving Scouts over 2 months to sell and make lots of cash!

- **We will only allow units to check out 100 cards at a time**
- **Units may return 50% of their cards—deadline Thursday, April 13 at roundtable**
(cards must be in good condition)

Program Sign-Up

Brad Miller—Brad.miller@scouting.org or 330-773-0415 ext. 240

Jody Gildersleeve—Jgilders@bsaemail.org or 330-773-0415 ext. 218

Council Information

Training available for Special Needs!



Is your unit struggling to provide services for a Scout with differing needs? Are you worried about the progress a Scout in your unit is making towards advancement, and you don't know whether he'll qualify for an extended period of time to complete his Eagle?

Or, are you a parent of a Scout who has been unable to communicate effectively

to your kid's Scoutmaster about a learning disability? Are you frustrated with the red-tape and traditions that are hampering your Scout's progress?

Are you a committee member watching as retention slips down because unit leaders appear unable to deal with behaviors in one Scout?

You're in luck.

At the University of Scouting, we have **18 courses** to address all of your questions and concerns.

Our core curriculum, with the opportunity to earn a patch to show your awesomely trained self, is a full day of classes designed to address basic programming and awareness within Scouting. This 6 course block is good for all Scouters, parents, committee members and interested parties.

For those looking for answers to specific questions, please plan on attending one of our two scheduled Question and Answer sessions. Conveniently located at the beginning and end of the day at University of Scouting, these Q and A sessions will be staffed with Great Trail Council Special Needs Advisory Committee members who will either give you the answer to your quandary, or figure out how to get to the answer you so richly deserve.

For those interested in the quest for knowledge, advanced special needs topics like medication administration, food allergies, advancement in Scouting, ISAP and its role in Scouting, and bullying round out our course list.

If, at the University of Scouting, you yourself have a special diet please sign up for our 3rd period-through lunch course (and provide us with your specific dietary restrictions) and you'll get to help prepare an allergen free feast for yourself and your fellow Scouters choosing this awesome course.

Questions, stray comments and non-sequitur thoughts may be directed to **Dennis Vargo** at 330-773-0415, ext. 214. Concrete needs and emergencies may be addressed by email to **Wendy Greathouse** at wendygreathouse@gmail.com.

Teaching your Scouts "Leave No Trace"

By Andrew and Bena Paisley



We have talked about all of the principles of Leave No Trace. This year we are going to focus on ideas for teaching it to your Scouts. This exercise focuses on Principle 2 and can be found on the Scouting.org website.

Materials: A large (approx. 18" X 24"), shallow box or container with an open top. An outdoor sandbox or similar area will also work well. If a box is used, collect enough sand, dirt, or similar material to fill the box to a depth of about 1". Small paper cutouts or other objects to simulate animals and vegetation. Small stones and flat rocks to simulate boulders and rocky surfaces.

Preparation: Prepare a backcountry landscape prior to your group's arrival by creating a flat, featureless layer of slightly damp sand or soil in the bottom of your box. Have group members make small cutouts or bring toy objects from home to simulate natural features. Preparing these items prior to your meeting will contribute to success.

Grabbing your group's attention: Your group is going to build an imaginary backcountry setting. The backcountry landscape will stimulate participants' curiosity and interest; they will actually see their "footsteps" on the landscape. Presenting this activity in a fun and interesting way is crucial to its success.

Have everyone gather around the box of sand or soil. Using the cutouts, have the participants create a backcountry world for an imaginary hiking trip. Your backcountry world should include a "stream" or "river," "trees," a "meadow," and at least one flat rocky area. Designate a point at one end of the box as the "starting point" and a point at the other end of the box as the "final destination."

Steps for teaching the activity

Scenario 1: On-Trail

1. Have participants decide as a group where to locate a narrow "hiking trail" leading from the starting point to the final destination. Tell them they must include a short section of zigzags. Have one person using two finders to draw the trail in the sand.
2. Present the following scenario: Imagine the group is planning a trip through its backcountry landscape. The trail and destination are visited yearly by many hikers and campers. The goal of the group is to leave as little trace as possible while traveling from the starting point to the final destination. Each participant should indicate the route he or she would take by letting the "fingers do the walking" in the moist sand.

Continued on Page 20

Arrowhead District

District Chairman
District Commissioner
District Executive

Dr. Ken LaPolla
Jim Dade
David Michalec

330-716-3838
330-883-1002
330-883-7096

drkenny@msn.com
owl4bd@aol.com
david.michalec@scouting.org



Cub Scout Winter Event



The Arrowhead Cub Scout Winter Event is **Saturday, February 18**, at Camp Stambaugh. This is a day event at a cost of \$13 per registrant, which includes lunch and a patch. There are over 10 separate stations and activities throughout the camp including Scout skills such as cooking and fire-building as well as slingshots,

a rope crane, and other games. Check-In begins at 7 a.m. and an opening ceremony will start at 8 a.m. Scouts will rotate activities throughout the day with a lunch provided by Troop 8 at the dining hall. The closing ceremony will be at 5:15 p.m. and a campfire will take place after sunset for Scouts that are overnight camping or staying late. The Event Chair **Tim Sandor** can be contacted at timinohio@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to help out in any way.

Register for Winter Event here:

<https://www.scoutingevent.com/433-CSWE2017>

Roundtable reminder

Roundtables are held the second Wednesday of every month in the Electrical Trades Institute of Northeast Ohio located at 4550 Research Parkway NW, Warren, OH 44483, beginning at 7 p.m.

These meetings offer an opportunity for informal training with a planned topic each month as well as important announcements about upcoming events and handouts. February's roundtable will be held on February 8, at 7 p.m., with break-out sessions for Cub Scouts led by **Monique Hornsby** and **Mike Kaiser**, and the Boy Scout break-out will be led by **Matt Fuchilla**.

Please compile a list of your favorite destinations and bring them to roundtable. Arrowhead is putting together a list of camps, trails, events, and other outings to be distributed in May. The training and opportunity for fellowship is one that cannot be matched in any other format, all adults are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Comic-Con Spring Camporee

Arrowhead Spring Camporee will be "Comic-Con" at Camp Stambaugh, **April 7-9**. It's an all-inclusive event with camping, four meals provided, and a patch. The event chairman is **Matt Fuchilla** who can be contacted at bsatrop4143@gmail.com.

Save the dates



The Arrowhead District Pinewood Derby will be held on **April 1**, at the Eastwood Mall in Niles. Anyone interested in volunteering please contact our Pinewood Derby Chair **Mike Kaiser** at cordialsdeli@yahoo.com.

The Arrowhead Spring Camporee will be held **April 7-9** at Camp Stambaugh. It's an all-inclusive event with camping, four meals provided, and a patch. The theme for spring camporee is "Comic-Con" with Scout competitions, costumes, the "Golden Spork" competition for the leaders, and more to come! Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact Spring Camporee Chair **Matt Fuchilla** at bsatrop4143@gmail.com.



February

- 8 Roundtable—7 p.m.—Electrical Trades Institute, 4550 Research Pkwy. NW, Warren
 - 15 District Committee Meeting—7 p.m.—Coleman-Miller Service Center, Warren
 - 16 District Advancement Meeting—7 p.m.—Christ Episcopal Church, 2627 Atlantic St. NE, Warren
 - 18 Cub Scout Winter Event—Camp Stambaugh
 - 23 District Advancement Meeting—7 p.m.—Christ Episcopal Church, 2627 Atlantic St. NE, Warren
- Registration \$22 Boys' Life \$11**

March

- 8 Roundtable—7 p.m.—Electrical Trades Institute, 4550 Research Pkwy. NW, Warren
 - 15 District Committee Meeting—7 p.m.—Coleman-Miller Service Center, Warren
 - 16 District Advancement Meeting—7 p.m.—Christ Episcopal Church, 2627 Atlantic St., NE, Warren
 - 23 District Advancement Meeting—7 p.m.—Christ Episcopal Church, 2627 Atlantic St., NE, Warren
- Registration \$20 Boys' Life \$10**

Chippewa District

“Scouting, From Tiger Paws to Eagle Claws”

Chairman Sherri Buck 330-635-1200sbuck01@msn.com
Commissioner John Naizer 330-419-8395team.naizer@frontier.com
District Executive Steve Jindra (B) 330-773-0415 X 235 stjindra@bsamail.org
Chippewa Website: www.facebook.com/pages/GTC-Chippewa-District



Recharterers due on March 9

Attention all units! Recharter turn-in is on **Thursday March 9**, 7 p.m., at roundtable located at the Medina United Methodist Church (4747 Foote Rd., Medina.) Commissioners and district staff will be available for assistance in reviewing your charters. The district encourages units to turn in their charter early if possible. Charters can be submitted online anytime. Remember youth protection is a must, every registered adult leader needs to turn in their certification. The training is the number one reason why the unit's charter can be defective. If you have any questions please contact **John Naizer** at team.naizer@frontier.com or Pat Gaugler at pgaugler@bsamail.org.

University of Scouting

University of Scouting is scheduled for **March 4**, at Ravenna High School. We want to encourage you to attend. There are several classes put on by council volunteers that are very beneficial to the Scouting movement. This is a great place to meet fellow Scouters while learning new information. Don't miss out on this opportunity. Be prepared, be there! Your Scouts will win!

2017 Friends of Scouting

On **February 1**, the Chippewa District kicks off its annual Friends of Scouting donation campaign. Being a non-profit, your generosity is how the Great Trail Council is able to run our day to day operations providing Scouting for thousands of kids. We ask each one of you to continue to participate by hosting a volunteer presenter provided by the district at your blue and gold banquet or court of honor. Please continue to pledge support to the largest youth organization ever created. You can schedule a time with the district's Family FOS Chairman **Glen Murduck** at gamduck@aol.com. Thank you for your continued support!

Bad weather alert



It is the time of year when we will start to see heavy snowfall making the roads and driving conditions dangerous. To find out if a meeting has been cancelled, please check your email the day of the scheduled meeting. If you haven't received a cancelation message before 5 p.m., the meeting is proceeding as planned.

Annual district elections

Chippewa District Elections are scheduled for **May 11**. The key three and nominating committee are accepting suggestions for the district members at large. The committee will be meeting regularly in the next several months to appoint volunteers to key positions throughout the Chippewa District. If you are interested in assisting the staff in some capacity please contact our District Chairman **Sherri Buck** at sbuck01@msn.com for more details. All leadership positions will be voted on May 11, at the district committee meeting located at Medina United Methodist Church. We start at 6 p.m. sharp. All suggestions or nominations must be in writing and be received no later than 30 days prior.

Day camp's around the corner

Believe it or not, it's time to start planning for day camp. See the list below for more information.

Place: Camp Butler

Cost: \$65.00

Dates: Session One June 26-28, Session Two June 29- July1

Contact: Camp Director, Steve Trommer at Strommer453@gmail.com

If you are available to give some of your free time this year to help on the day camp committee please do so. It is an awesome experience to help teach and assist our Cub Scouts.

Continued on Page 20

February

- 1 Chippewa's 2017 Friends of Scouting campaign begins
 - 8 Scout Uniform Day—wear your Scout t-shirt to school
 - 9 District Committee Meeting—7 p.m.—Medina United Methodist Church, 4747 Foote Rd., Medina
 - 9 Roundtable—7 p.m.—Medina United Methodist Church, 4747 Foote Rd., Medina
 - 20 President's Day—Scout Shop/office closed
- Registration \$4 Boys' Life \$2**

March

- 4 University of Scouting—Ravenna High School
 - 9 District Committee Meeting—Medina United Methodist Church, 4747 Foote Rd., Medina
 - 9 Roundtable & Recharter Turn-In—Medina United Methodist Church, 4747 Foote Rd., Medina
 - 23 Super Thursday
- Registration \$2 Boys' Life N/A**

Lakes District

“Leads the Way”

District Chairman James Schweikert 330-899-9915 schweikert@neo.rr.com
District Commissioner Joe Testa 330-418-3117 jtesta5@neo.rr.com
District Executive Tom Craig 330-773-0415 X 239 tom.craig@scouting.org
District Website: www.lakesdistrict.org



Gentlemen, start building your cars!

The Lakes District Pinewood will be held **Saturday, April 29**, at MAPS Air Museum. For more information please contact **Ron Halverson** at 330-771-3025 or Ronnie.halvorson@gmail.com.

District Recognition Dinner

This year the Lakes District Recognition Dinner will be held on **Thursday, April 20**. Please be looking for more information at roundtable. Also don't forget that the district dinner is a time to recognize your fellow Scouters for all of their hard work, dedication and service. If you know someone who goes above and beyond expectations please take the time to nominate him or her for either the District Award of Merit or the Lakes Commodore Award. Each year Lakes District gets to award two District Awards of Merit and as many Commodore Awards as there are worthy recipients. You can get forms from roundtable. Nominations must be turned in to **Tom Craig** no later than March 10, 2017 for consideration.

Online rechartering

This year, the Lakes District Charter Turn-In is scheduled for **Thursday, February 9**, at Lakes Roundtable. Unit commissioners will be there from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m., to sit with you for a few minutes to make sure that you have all that you need for your charter to be complete. Please bring your signed charter, any additional applications that you added to your charter, copies of youth protection cards and your check. Last year the Lakes District charters were very clean, with few errors. Hopefully with the process of online rechartering we will be 100% error free!

Cub Scout Investigation (CSI) Day Camp



This year the theme for day camp is CSI (Cub Scout Investigation) honoring our local superheroes! Join us at beautiful Craftsmen Park for a camp to remember. Please be aware that this year there will be a final registration date (that

date is still being determined.) No late registrations will be accepted and there will be no walk-ins allowed at day camp. Also registration for day camp will be exclusively online—that includes t-shirts. Please start planning now!

Chariot race

January 29, was a great Sunday for racing. No not NASCAR - chariots! All that came out had a great time and congratulations to the winners! A special thanks to **Kate Breth, Vivianne Duffrin, Dan Berlyoung**, and the adults from **Pack 3330** for another flawless race.

Webelos-to-Scout transition

February is the month in which most Cub Scouts make the transition into a Boy Scout troop. This can be both an exciting and scary time for these young Scouts. The key factor to improved Webelos transition is the ongoing working relationship of the leaders of the Cub Scout pack and a Boy Scout troop. Webelos dens should visit several troops before deciding which unit they want to join, and the Boy Scout troops should welcome these Webelos realizing that these boys may be the future of that troop. In order to make the passage from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts as smooth as possible, with no time lost in between when the Webelos are ready to cross over, they and their families should be familiar and comfortable with the youth and adult leaders of the troop, their role in the troop and troop activities. They should feel excited about beginning this new adventure. Also, to make the transition complete, the troop leaders need to make sure that there is a Boy Scout application on file for all of the new Scouts. Without an application on file, any advancement the new Scout earns cannot be recorded. So, please let's do everything possible to make this transition as smooth and comfortable as possible for our new Boy Scouts.

February

- 2 District Commissioners Meeting—6:30 p.m.—Acme, 3235 Manchester Rd., Akron
 - 7 District Committee Meeting—7 a.m.—Panera (Arlington Ridge Marketplace), 790 Arlington Ridge, Akron
 - 9 Roundtable—6:50 p.m.—Council Service Center, 1601 S. Main St., Akron
- Registration \$2 Boys' Life NA**

March

- 3 District Commissioners Meeting—6:30 p.m.—Acme, 3235 Manchester Rd., Akron
 - 7 District Committee Meeting—7 a.m.—Panera (Arlington Ridge Marketplace), 790 Arlington Ridge, Akron
 - 9 Roundtable—6:30 p.m.—Council Service Center, 1601 S. Main St., Akron
 - 10 District Awards nominations due
 - 31 District Awards recipients announced
- Registration \$24 Boys' Life \$12**

Moecomdws District

“It’s A Matter Of Pride”

District Chairman Paul Schumacher 330-650-2122 paulschus@gmail.com
 District Commissioner Dave Harman 234-380-5876 daveharman@yahoo.com
 District Executive Wayne Nieman 330-773-0415 X 242 wnieman@bsamail.org
 District Website: www.moescouts.org



February District Committee Meeting

Just a friendly reminder, due to the Moe District Retreat on January 28, there will be no district committee meeting in February. Our next district committee meeting will take place on **March 2**, 7 p.m., at Hudson Presbyterian Church. Also, April’s committee meeting and district elections will take place on **March 30**, 7 p.m., at Hudson Presbyterian Church.

Charter Turn-In is February 9

This year we will be collecting charter paperwork during the February roundtable on **Thursday, February 9**. You will have an opportunity to talk with a unit commissioner to make sure that all of the paperwork is complete including applications, signatures, money and Journey to Excellence. If you have any questions, please contact your unit commissioner. Remember, we are adjusting this year to the new rules next year, when all charters, signatures and money must be turned in before the charter expiration date.

Journey to Excellence



For the 2016 year, MOE District will be a Gold District again! Thank you to everyone for your

hard work. This really does reflect the quality of the packs, troops and crews in our district. How did your unit do in 2016? Please remember that the Journey to Excellence is part of the recharter process. Take just a few minutes to review the form (that was included in your recharter packet,) evaluate your unit, fill in the form and turn it in with your charter. Our goal this year is to have 100% participation and more gold units than we did last year.

Klondike was a success

The 2017 Moecomdws Klondike was a huge success! Camp Butler hosted over 200 Boy Scouts and leaders from the district during the final weekend of January. A special thank you goes out to **Steve Reed** and all of **Troop 155** for putting on this year’s event. The theme of “Mad Max, Flurry Road” was a hit! See next month’s *Scouters’ News* for the announcement of winners from the events! Also thank you to all of the leaders who showed up for our Moe District Retreat on Saturday morning. We are looking forward to a successful 2017 in Moecomdws District.

Cub Scout Bowling Day

Join us on **Saturday, February 4**, at Legend Lanes (4190 State Rd., Cuyahoga Falls.) Time is 12:45 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person and includes two rounds of bowling, hot dog, bag of chips, a drink and bowling patch. Non-bowlers may purchase lunch for \$5. **Reservations only—no walk-ins**. Questions? Contact **Ronda Roxbury** at 330-957-2386 or rondaroxbury@gmail.com.

2017 Family FOS campaign is underway

Our 2017 Family FOS campaign has begun. All units need to schedule a presentation date, preferably the date of your blue and gold banquet or court of honor. Please give your date to Family FOS Chair **Don and Val Moffa**. They can be reached at 216-990-4412, Valmoffa@yahoo.com, or Dmoffa@gmail.com. Our 2017 Family Friends of Scouting goal is \$51,000 in MOE.

Cub Scout Leader Training

Are your leaders trained? If not, we can help you! This year, Moecomdws District will be holding a Cub Scout Leader Specific Training on **Saturday, April 1**, at Holy Family School in Stow. Flyers will be passed out at roundtable, emailed to unit leaders and placed in saddlebags. If you have any questions, please contact Cub Scout Training Chair **Jericho Johnson** at Jericho.who@gmail.com.

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February	
2	District Committee Meeting—7 p.m.—Hudson Presbyterian Church
4	Cub Bowling Day—Legend Lanes
9	District Commissioners Meeting—6:45 p.m.—St. Stephen Church
9	Roundtable—7:15 p.m.—St. Stephen Church— all unit charters due
20	Presidents Day—Scout Shop/office closed
25-26	Scouting Ski Days
	Registration \$2 Boys’ Life NA
March	
2	District Committee Meeting—7 p.m.—Hudson Presbyterian Church
4	University of Scouting—Ravenna High School
9	District Commissioners Meeting—6:30 p.m.—St. Stephen Church
9	Roundtable—7:15 p.m.—St. Stephen Church
23	Super Thursday
30	District Committee Meeting—7 p.m.—Hudson Presbyterian Church
	Registration \$24 Boys’ Life \$12

Old Portage District

“THE Quality District”

District Chairman Donna Axson 330-573-8766 daxson@oldportage.org
District Commissioner Dan Gentile 330-808-4819 gentile2@fuse.net
District Executive Dennis Vargo 330-773-0415 X 214
Old Portage Website <https://oldportage.com/>



Attend roundtable for fun and learning

Roundtables are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:15 p.m., at Faith Lutheran Church. Plan to attend the monthly roundtable meetings in 2017. **It's recharter time** for all units in the Old Portage District, you should already have your charter packet and be working on it. We will have commissioners at our March roundtable where you can turn in your charter and have it checked thoroughly by our commissioners. Please bring your signed charter, any additional applications that you added to your charter, copies of Youth Protection Training cards and your check. Please contact Anbu Kuppusamy with any questions at anbu_nee@yahoo.com or Dennis Vargo at Dennis.vargo@scouting.org.

2017 Old Portage Day Camp

Mark your calendar now! 2017 Old Portage Day Camp will be a couple weeks earlier this year – **July 10-12**. If you are interested in helping out next year (or have BOY SCOUTS that would be interested) please let **Stacy Bechtel** know ASAP as we are in the beginning stages of planning. Contact Stacy at stacybechtel@hotmail.com.

More information to come!

Staff change

We are sad to announce the resignation of **Keith Doyle** as district executive for the past two years of Old Portage District. Keith has taken a position with the Northwest Ave. Church of Christ in Tallmadge. We wish him luck with his new career and thank him for his service to Scouting.

Dennis Vargo will serve as professional Scouter in the Old Portage District.



How we support the Scouting program

Delivering a high quality Scouting program costs the Great Trail Council \$150 per Scout per year over and above membership fees. On average, only 25% of our families support the Friends of Scouting campaign. We must increase this percentage, and with your help, WE WILL! **FOS is an outstanding opportunity to increase the dollars available** for the maintenance of Camps Manatoc, Butler and Stambaugh, the administration of registrations, training records, membership and advancement records, activities such as the University of Scouting and council camporees, klondikes, summer camps and day camps, and for training courses to ensure that every Scout has the trained adult leader that they deserve.

Leaders please spread the word about Friends of Scouting. Inform your parents about the presentation before the scheduled event so that parents are prepared that evening with checkbook or credit card to make a pledge. Lead by example by having the first pledges of the evening be from the unit leaders.

Thank you for your support in promoting Friends of Scouting.

Yours in Service of the Spirit of Scouting,

Eric Matheny

Old Portage District Friends of Scouting Family Chair
matheny54@hotmail.com
(330) 285-4791

February

- 2 District Committee Meeting—7 p.m.—Bath United Church of Christ
- 5 Scout Sunday/Scout Anniversary
- 8 Wear Your Uniform Day
- 9 District Commissioners Meeting—6:30 p.m.—Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 W. Market St., Akron
- 9 Roundtable—7:15 p.m.—Faith Lutheran Church, 2726 W. Market St., Akron
- 20 Presidents Day—Scout Shop/office closed
- 25-26 Scout Ski Days

Registration \$4

Boys' Life \$2

March

- 2 District Committee Meeting—7 p.m.—Bath United Church of Christ
- 4 University of Scouting—Ravenna High School
- 10 District Commissioners Meeting—6:30 p.m.—Faith Lutheran Church
- 19 Super Saturday District Training
- 25 Old Portage District Pinewood Derby
- 30 District Committee Meeting (for April) - 7 p.m.—Bath United Church of Christ

Registration \$2

Boys' Life N/A

Seneca District

“The Heart of the Great Trail Council”

District Chairman Bruce Dockstader 330-678-4376
District Commissioner Joe Payne 330-388-9275
District Executive Nate Watson 330-773-0415 X 227 Nathan.Watson@scouting.org
Seneca Website: www.senecadistrict.org



Family Friends of Scouting (FOS)

The 2017 campaign is underway for all Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops and Venture crews. Now is the time to think about having a FOS presentation at a blue and gold banquet, court of honor, or parent night.

Start by selecting a unit FOS chairperson and then schedule your unit for a presentation in February or early March. Set your own unit goal. Sign-ups for a presentation may be done at roundtable in February and **NO LATER THAN MARCH!** Our Family Friends of Scouting Chairman this year is Mike Rowe. He will be contacting you to help schedule. Mike can be reached at mikeroweops@sbcglobal.net or 330-351-3283. You may also call Nate Watson, 330-773-0415, ext. 227, or email

Nathan.Watson@scouting.org to schedule. Make sure the date you select is a date when you will have the most family and friends of Scouts in attendance and we'll arrange for a FOS presenter to attend your event. Presentations typically take 10 minutes, with a short follow-up at the end of your program.

We need to be able to tell the “Scouting Story” to every family and give them the opportunity to make a financial contribution to help support the great things we do with the youth of our communities.

Cub Scout Polar Bear Swim



The 2017 edition of the Seneca Polar Bear Swim will be held **February 4, at Kent Roosevelt High School from 1-5 p.m.!** This event is limited to the first 80 swimmers. The cost for this event is \$4 and all participants will receive a limited edition patch! Questions? Contact

Kirk Gordon at 330-958-7851. This year's event is sure to be a **Freeezing Good Time!**

Rev 'em up!



Hey Cub Scouts, mark your calendars for the best ever district level pinewood derby to be held on **Saturday, April 8, at Maplewood Career Center!**

Registration and weigh-in will be held

from 8-9 a.m., racing will run from 9 a.m.-noon. There will be plenty of activities for all including a concession stand and other activities for the kids! Questions? Contact **Valerie Lucarelli** at pack3551Ravenna@gmail.com.

Seneca District Annual Retreat

On **Saturday, January 14**, leaders from the Seneca District hunkered down to conduct the district's annual retreat. Over 15 leaders from the district gave up their morning to come out and review the district's progress in 2016! A lot of good critiquing took place! Also discussed was the future of Seneca in 2017 and beyond. Be sure to check saddlebags, *Scouters' News*, and as always, attend roundtable every month to hear about exciting new activities going on in the district, as well as changes that may be coming to you as well! Thanks again to all those who joined us!

Klondike was cold and fun!



The Klondike was held **January 20 -22**, we had over 300 Scouts and Scouters show up to this incredible event! The top three troops for the klondike derby were: **3rd Place Troop 4065** from Arrowhead District, **2nd Place**

Troop 575 from Mantua and **1st Place Troop 558** from Edinburg (picture above!) Great job to all of our participants who braved the muddy terrain to come and have a great time! A special thanks to **Chad Roberts, Stephanie McLean, John Sargent** and all of their teams! Without all of your commitment and dedication we would not have been able to put together such an incredible event! This year we introduced a pig roast dinner to Saturday night, and I think we will be pushing forward with this delicious feast idea! Stay tuned for next year's dates released at the May roundtable!

February

- 2 District Committee Meeting—7 p.m.—Kent United Church of Christ, 1400 E. Main St., Kent
- 4 Cub Scout Polar Bear Swim—1-5 p.m.—Kent Roosevelt Pool
- 9 Roundtable—7 p.m.—Kent United Church of Christ, 1400 E. Main St., Kent
- 20 Presidents Day—Scout Shop/office closed
- 23 Friends of Scouting Kick-Off

Registration \$24

Boys' Life \$12

March

- 2 District Committee Meeting—7 p.m.—Kent United Church of Christ, 1400 E. Main St., Kent
- 4 University of Scouting—Ravenna High School
- 9 Roundtable—7 p.m.—Kent United Church of Christ, 1400 E. Main St., Kent
- 18 District Pinewood Derby (rescheduled from 4/8) - 8 a.m.—Maplewood Career Center
- 29 FOS Report Meeting #2
- 30 District Committee Meeting—7 p.m.—Kent United Church of Christ, 1400 E. Main St., Kent

Registration \$22

Boys' Life \$11

Tri-Fires District “Fired Up Scouting!”

District Chair Dan Cargill 330-631-8810 cargilldan@gmail.com
 District Commissioner Miles Hardesty 330-283-7168 mgh2073@att.net
 District Executive Brian Williams 330-773-0415 X 232



Cub Scout Leader Training Saturday, January 28

Firestone Park United Methodist Church
 250 N. Firestone Blvd., Akron
 8 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
 Questions? Pam Ferguson
 330-475-2546 or pfery19209@sbcglobal.net

Klondike was a huge success!

Tri-Fires 2017 Klondike was a great success! We'd like to thank **Walt Welker** and **Troop 48** for doing an excellent job hosting! We'd like to request snow and not mud for next year!

Ranking	Unit	Patrol	Score
1st Place	Troop 48	Spaghetti	390.2
2nd Place	Troop 310	Black Hawks	379.8
3rd Place	Troop 310	Sea Wolf	342.5

Tri-Fires District Retreat is all set

District committee members and commissioner staff, please mark your calendars for **Saturday, January 21, 8 a.m.**, at the Akron Community Foundation, for our annual district retreat. Come join us for fellowship, fun, and more as we plan and critique our programs for the 2017-2018 Scouting year!

Please note that lunch will be served! Any questions or suggestions for the day's agenda should be directed to District Chairman **Dan Cargill** at 330-631-8810.

Roundtable reminder

Roundtables are the second Thursday of each month at Northwest Ave. Church of Christ in Tallmadge. Roundtables start at 7 p.m. and all are welcome to attend the fun! Roundtables are an essential tool for distributing information, informal training, building excitement, and making new friends!

The meeting this month will be held on **February 9**. The focus of February's roundtable with Scouts will be led by Roundtable Commissioner Ken Brown (knotman13@gmail.com) who will be discussing the "Role of Advancement in the Boy Scouts."

On your mark, get set, go!



Mark your calendars for the Tri-Fires District Pinewood Derby, **March 11**. Pack 3361 will be hosting this year, and the location will be at First Congregational Church, 85 Heritage

Dr., Tallmadge. Any questions or concerns, please contact **Greg Upole** at 330-835-3493 or email gregory5457@yahoo.com.

Last year was phenomenal! Let's make this year even more action packed. Our goal is to have participants from all 13 packs in our district. Hope to see you all there!

Tri-Fires Day Camp



This year day camp will be held **July 20-22 at Camp Manatoc**. If you have any questions, please contact **Marnie Mellinger** at marnie@neo.rr.com or **Todd Mosko** at tigerscout3412@gmail.com.

Family FOS presentations

By this time all dates for Family FOS presentations should have been turned in to Brian Williams at 330-773-0415 ext. 232 or brian.williams@scouting.org. If you haven't turned in your dates please do so ASAP!

February

- 2 District Commissioners Meeting—6 p.m.—Northwest Ave. Church of Christ, 737 Northwest Ave., Tallmadge
- 2 District Committee Meeting—7 p.m.—Northwest Ave. Church of Christ, 737 Northwest Ave., Tallmadge
- 5 Scout Sunday
- 9 Roundtable—7 p.m.—Northwest Ave. Church of Christ, 737 Northwest Ave., Tallmadge
- 20 Presidents Day—Scout Shop/office closed
- 22 New Unit Blitz Day
- 23 FOS Kick-Off
- 25-26 Ski Days

Registration \$24

Boys' Life \$12

March

- 2 District Commissioners Meeting—6 p.m.—Northwest Ave. Church of Christ, 737 Northwest Ave., Tallmadge
- 2 District Committee Meeting—7 p.m.—Northwest Ave. Church of Christ, 737 Northwest Ave., Tallmadge
- 4 University of Scouting—Ravenna High School
- 9 Roundtable—7 p.m.—Northwest Ave. Church of Christ, 737 Northwest Ave., Tallmadge
- 11 Pinewood Derby

Registration \$22

Boys' Life \$11

Whispering Pines District

District Chairman
District Commissioner Beth Harnishfeger 330-758-3853 sciota52@aol.com
District Executive John Brkic john.brkic@scouting.org
Whispering Pines Website <https://>



Roundtables are held monthly

Roundtable Meetings are held monthly at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Boardman. Westminster Presbyterian is located at 119 Stadium Drive, Boardman, OH 44512.

All adults are welcome and **encouraged** to attend our monthly roundtables. These meetings offer important announcements about upcoming events, handouts and informational flyers for district led endeavors, plus information about council-wide programs.

February's roundtable will be held on **Thursday, February 2**, beginning at 7 p.m. The general session will be conducted from 7 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. and from 7:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. we will break out into two groups to focus on the needs of our Boy Scout volunteers and our Cub Scout volunteers.

This month's breakout sessions will focus on:

Cub Scouts: Cub Scout Hiking

Boy Scouts: Backpacking

Boy Scout Winter Klondike

The Annual Boy Scout Winter Klondike Derby was held the weekend of January 13. Thank you to all the units who participated in this wonderful event that had over 200 youth and adult participants! Thank you to our Event Chairs, **Eric Grabman** and **Kurt Hilderbrand** for making this annual event a success!

Cub Scout Winter Freeze-Out

The Annual Cub Scout Winter Freeze Out was held the weekend of January 28. Thank you to all of the units who made this event a success and to our Event Chair **Steph Kelly** for her hard work and dedication to all of our Cub Scout camping events!

Family Friends of Scouting

Our Friends of Scouting Family Chair **Marion Sweely** has been reaching out to all units to schedule their 2017 Family Friends of Scouting presentation. If you have not yet scheduled your presentation, please email Marion at msweely@zoominternet.net to set a date, time, and location for your presentation.

Coming soon—Cub Scout day camp

Save the date! Information is coming to you soon about the Whispering Pines District Cub Scout Day Camp that will be held at Camp Stambaugh, **July 24-28**. We will be bringing back our program director from previous resident camp programs, **Samantha Marscio**, who is sure to plan a wonderful program as our new day camp director.

New Whispering Pines District website

If you haven't already, please visit the new Whispering Pines District website located at www.whisperingpinesdistrict.org. Information about district events, calendars, etc. will be posted on the website for your one-stop destination for all things Scouting in the Whispering Pines District. If you have any questions about the website, or would like to see information added, please feel free to contact **John Brkic** at john.brkic@scouting.org.

Roundtable attendance prize winner

Congratulations to **Troop 44** for winning the first prize drawing for roundtable attendance! Don't forget that we track roundtable attendance each month and you earn an entrance into the semi-annual drawings for each member of your unit that attends roundtables. Our first drawing for 2017 will be at our May meeting.

District Recognition Dinner

Be on the lookout for information regarding our annual District Recognition Dinner to be held at Mt. Olivet Church in North Lima. **Kurt Hilderbrand** will again be helping to plan this event, and we invite all Scouters to attend for a night of fellowship and recognition of our 2016 accomplishments. Date is still TBD but will likely be in March or April.

February

- 1 District Committee Meeting—6:30 p.m.—Boardman Library, 7680 Glenwood Ave., Boardman
- 1 Advancement Committee Meeting—7 p.m.—Boardman Library, 7680 Glenwood Ave., Boardman
- 2 Roundtable—7 p.m.—Westminster Presbyterian Church, 119 Stadium Dr., Boardman
Registration \$22 Boys' Life \$11

March

- 1 District Committee Meeting—7 p.m.—Boardman Library, 7680 Glenwood Ave., Boardman
- 1 Advancement Committee Meeting—7 p.m.—Boardman Library, 7680 Glenwood Ave., Boardman
- 2 Roundtable—7 p.m.—Westminster Presbyterian Church, 119 Stadium Dr., Boardman
Registration \$20 Boys' Life \$10

Venturing/Exploring

Energy...Excitement...Enthusiasm

Chairman Elizabeth Murphy 330-434-9300 murphy.venture.gtc@gmail.com
Commissioner Anna Lott 330-699-1854 lott88a@gmail.com
Staff Advisor Dennis Vargo 330-773-0415 ext. 214 dvargo@bsamail.org
Council Venturing President Anna Grund President@GTCVenturing.org



GTC is a Silver CSVE recipient

For the second year in a row, Great Trail Council has achieved Silver on the national Council Standards of Venturing Excellence. The CSVE is designed to measure a council's Venturing program through analyzing various aspects of their growth in categories such as membership, trainings, events, and awards. Councils that earn the CSVE Award will be presented a dated, framed certificate at the National Annual Meeting. Last year was the first that there was a bronze, silver, gold level and GTC was one of the 8 councils so honored in the Central Region and no councils achieved Gold.

Complete your Journey to Excellence

Having awesome crews leads to the best experience for everyone. As you work on rechartering your crew, complete your form with your unit commissioner and provide a copy to Anna Lott at Commissioner@GTCVenturing.org to share your success story. Get the JTE form at www.scouting.org/filestore/mission/pdf/2016_JTE_Crew_Scorecard.pdf.

Nominate someone now for a Venturing Choice Award

How many around us do a great job, but no one stops to tell them? Here is your chance to make their day and to see them recognized. Your job is to (1) tell why you think they deserve the award and (2) get them to the **Venturing Carnival and Annual Dinner on February 26** to be honored. Nominations may come from any registered Scouter and youth. To **recommend someone for the award** you must complete an online nomination form at <http://GTCVenturing.org> giving reasons why this nominee is deserving of the award. Nominations close on February 19, at midnight. Categories include but are not limited to Advisor of the Year, Associate Advisor of the Year, President of the Year, outstanding Venturer of the Year, and best service Project of the Year.

VOA Annual Planning Meeting

The VOA met in retreat on December 31, 2016 led by Council Venturing President **Anna Grund**. She and Vice Presidents **Eddie Raines, Alex Heard** and **Natalie Menke** joined their advisors **Kimberly Myers, Blaine Lott, Ricky Angeletti** and **Steve Myers** to make plans for the 2017 year. Lots of great things in store. Comments or questions to Anna at President@GTCVenturing.org.

Venturing Carnival and Annual Dinner



Come celebrate with us. This is a time for all those who are in and support the Venturing program to come together. The Mardi Gras games start on **February 26**, at 4:30 when the doors open. Dinner will begin shortly after the doors open at 6 p.m. It is held in Judson Hall at First Baptist Church, 1670 Shatto Ave., Akron. Our chef is none other than **Jim Bailey**. Register at <http://GTCVenturing.org/events> for just \$12. See the awarding of the GTC Venturing Choice Awards and Council Venturing Leadership Awards and other recognitions after dinner.

Tell us about your president...

at <http://GTCVenturing.org/crewpresident> so he or she can be invited to our monthly conference calls to represent your crew. Conference calls are the second Sunday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

New national website—Venturing.org

The National VOA has just created a new and fantastic website at <http://Venturing.org>. Check it out, it is amazingly complete.

Continued on Page 19

	February
26	Venturing Carnival and Annual Dinner
	March
4	University of Scouting—Ravenna High School

Marnoc Lodge #151

Order of the Arrow

Lodge Chief Jacob Schul chief@marnoc.org
Lodge Adviser Robert Saffle 330-607-5021
adviser@marnoc.org
Staff Adviser Shannon Sinex 330-773-0415 ext. 217
ssinex@bsamail.org



Renew your membership

As a reminder, 2017 membership renewal has started. Please renew your membership for 2017. You can renew your 2017 membership online at <https://scoutingevent.com/433-marnocdues>.

New Lodge flap

The new Lodge flaps are available now. You can buy them at any OA event or at the Scout Shop.



Lodge belt buckle



The Lodge is selling belt buckles. The new belt buckle is available for purchase at any OA event. The cost is \$15.00. There is a limited number available so get one while they last. Here is a look at the buckle design.

2017 Unit Election packets in troop saddlebags

The Lodge has revisited the unit elections and its process and will be implementing the following:

- Unit Elections will be conducted January 1 – April 15.
- All Ordeal registration will be done online.

The online registration will be extended. Registration January 1-April 15 will be \$50, April 16-June 30 will be \$75.

2017 Conclave

We would like to start reminding everyone that Marnoc Lodge is hosting the 2017 Conclave at Camp Manatoc. Please save the date which is **May 19-21**. We will need everyone's help in making this a success.

February

15 LEC

March

4 University of Scouting—Ravenna High School
11 Winter Fellowship
15 LEC

Venturing District cont'd.

University of Scouting—March 4

Venturing youth have their own courses at the University of Scouting and get a special price for the event. As in the past the Adult Venturing College will offer fine courses as well. Youth have a separate registration process than the adults and it must be used to get in the right courses and to get the \$10 fee. Adults teaching in or directly supporting the youth college get in for the adult staff fee. They must also register via the youth college link. So at the time of this writing here are the courses offered.

Venturing College – Youth Training

Register at <http://GTCVenturing.org/events>.

Questions to Advisor@GTCVenturing.org.

The youth college is a separate registration from the adult college.

- Introduction to Leadership Skills for Crews (required for NYLT)
- Personal Safety Awareness (required for the Venturing Award)
- Goal Setting and Time Management (required for the Discovery Award, not offered this time, but it is offered in Cleveland on March 18 at their Baden Powell Institute.)
- Project Management and Planning a Service Project (required for the Pathfinder Award).
- Mentoring (required for the Summit Award)
- Youth Venturing Forum
- How to Leave Your Crew Better Than You Found It.

Venturing College – Adult Training

Register at <https://scoutingevent.com/433-uos2017>.

Some courses are listed in the Boy Scout College and some in the Venturing College. Questions to Dean **Brian Menke** at training@GTCVenturing.org.

- Venturing Advisor Position-Specific Training
- What is Venturing and how to start and build a Crew.
- The Venturing recognition and awards program.
- The Difference between Scoutmaster and Advisor.
- Expedition Planning
- Trail Cooking
- Venturing shooting sports including hunting – Venturers can hunt?
- Outdoor Ethics-Leave No trace – What's in it for my Crew?
- Older Scouts and our Mission
- Why a Troop should support a Venturing Crew.
- Preparing for the Big "4" high adventure bases.
- Venturing Share Forum.

Moecomdws District cont'd.

Award nominees wanted for 2017

The MOE District couldn't run without great volunteers like you - and we would like to take time to recognize your efforts. Great volunteers need great supporters to nominate them. We are calling on supporters to recognize great district and unit level volunteers through various awards, including the District Award of Merit, Spark Plug Awards, Partners in Scouting and the Eisenman Award. Be the first to recognize someone that has put your needs before their own. Do a "good turn" for a great person in our district today. Forms will be available at roundtable. Below is a brief description of the awards available:

District Award of Merit: Council level award presented by districts to Scouters who render service of an outstanding nature at a district level.

Spark Plug Award: Honors registered adults working at the unit level who put an extra "spark" in the unit's program in the past year.

Partners in Scouting: A unique Moecomdws District award for married couples with involvement in the leadership roles of their unit

Eisenman Award: A special Moe District award that was established to select an outstanding Scouter each year who highly exemplifies the image of Scouting and who would represent all district Scouters.

This year's District Awards will take place on **April 20**, 7 p.m., at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, in Stow. Nomination forms can be found at roundtable, and will be placed in saddlebags and emailed to unit leaders.

Chippewa District cont'd.

Chippewa thanks

Thanks to **Tom Ables** for running an awesome klondike derby at the Brooklyn Exchange Cabin in Hinckley. We had a great time!

Thanks **John Naizer** for your rechartering training in January.

Thank you **district staff** for your contribution to the 2017 Friends of Scouting district volunteers campaign. We cannot operate without such generous volunteers.

Thanks to **Steve Trommer** and **Stacy McFarland** with your efforts planning an awesome day camp for 2017. We can't wait until summer!



Council Information cont'd.

Leave No Trace (continued from Page 7)

Instruct the group to identify one spot for a break along the way. Let each person indicate a path before discussion.

A close review of the background on the Principles of Leave No Trace is needed to effectively lead discussion. Ask participants the following questions.

Why did you choose the route you did? Most people will choose to stay on the trail. The discussion should focus on choosing a route that will protect the land and help prevent new trails from beginning.

Why do land managers build hiking trails for backcountry visitors? Constructed trails concentrate hiker activity and help prevent informal trails—which increase the impact on vegetation and may cause soil erosion—from forming.

Where should the group stop for breaks? Taking breaks off-trail can help preserve solitude for others; however, always take breaks on durable surfaces. Move to gravel or flat rocks if such surfaces can be found without disturbing soil or vegetation and preferably out of sight off the trail to allow others to pass without impacting their experience.

How noisy were participants during their hike? A little chatter is a part of hiking and can reduce the risk of bear encounters in bear country. However, screaming, radios, singing, and other loud noises upset the outdoor experience of all visitors and may disturb wildlife.

Summarize these key points:

Use existing trails.

Avoid taking shortcuts.

Walk single file. Avoid widening trails.

Council Calendar

February

- 1 Auction Committee Meeting
- 5 Scout Sunday
- 7 Council Membership Meeting
- 8 Boy Scout Camp Promotion Meeting
- 8 Jamboree Committee Meeting
- 8 Wear Your Uniform Day
- 9 Camp Card Sign Up
- 9 Finance Committee Meeting
- 10-12 NYLT Staff Development—Camp Butler
- 13 Executive Committee Meeting
- 14 Wood Badge Dinner Committee Meeting
- 15 Special Needs Committee Meeting
- 16 Cub Camp Promotion Meeting
- 18 Special Needs Training
- 19 [Wood Badge / NYLT Dinner](#)
- 20 Presidents Day—Scout Shop/office closed
- 21 Religious Committee Meeting
- 22 New Unit Blitz Day
- 23 FOS Kick Off
- 25 Campmasters Meeting
- 25-26 [Scout Ski Days](#)
- 27 Day Camp Directors Meeting
- 28 Council Commissioners Meeting

March

- 1 Auction Committee Meeting
- 3 University of Scouting Committee Meeting
- 4 Commissioners Training
- 4 [University of Scouting](#)
- 6 Training Committee Meeting
- 8 Boy Scout Camp Promo Committee Meeting
- 9 Camp Card Kick-Off
- 9 Finance Committee Meeting
- 10 Camp Staff Training
- 10-12 NYLT Staff Development #2 at Camp Butler
- 10 Silver Beaver Applications Due
- 11 Silver Beaver Colony Breakfast
- 13 Executive Board Meeting
- 13 Funding Committee Meeting
- 14 Camp Committee Meeting
- 16 Eagle Dinner—Hilton Akron/Fairlawn
- 17 Wood Badge Staff Development
- 22 Properties Committee Meeting
- 23 Super Thursday—Key Scouters
- 24 Endowment Committee Meeting
- 24 Marketing Committee Meeting
- 25 [Edge Training](#)
- 28 Council Commissioners Meeting
- 29 FOS Report #2
- 30 University of Scouting Committee Meeting
- 30 Risk Management Committee Meeting

Great Trail Council Scout Shop

1601 S. Main St.

Akron, OH 44301

330-773-4078

sherrie@gtcbsa.org

Hours

Monday—Friday: 9 A.M.—6 P.M.

Saturday: 9 A.M.—1 P.M.

<http://www.gtcbsa.org/scoutshop.html>

Fax order form

http://www.gtcbsa.org/forms/fax_order.pdf

Camp Stambaugh Scout Shop

3712 Leffingwell Rd.

Canfield, OH 44406

330- 533-4538

Tuesday & Thursday 4-6

Sat 10-2

