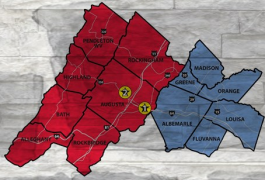


MARCH 2023



THE TRIBUTARY

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRGINIA HEADWATERS COUNCIL



Steve Hammond
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Sue Hart
Assistant Scout Executive

Roger Burke, Jr
COUNCIL COMMISSIONER

Virginia Headwaters Council (VAHC)

801 Hopeman Parkway
Waynesboro, VA 23980

Phone-540-943-6675

Fax-540-943-6676

www.vahcbsa.org

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday 9AM-5PM

Scout Shop Closed on Monday

Sue Hart, Asst Scout Executive

susan.hart@scouting.org

434-872-3320

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terry.michael@scouting.org

540-943-6675

Bill Hunter, CS Ranger

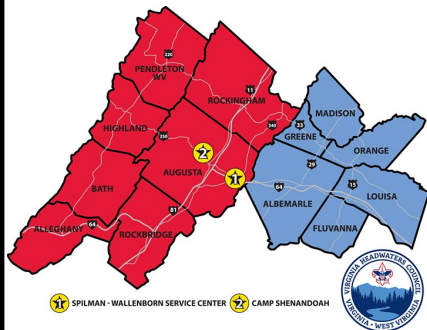
bill.hunter@scouting.org

540-447-0579

Cindy Zollman, Tributary Editor

cedarspringz@comcast.net

540-460-4832





I hope everyone has been enjoying a warmer than usual February. The shortest month of the year provided a show case for how strong the Scouting program is in Virginia

Headwaters Council. The month started with a well-attended Klondike Derby at Camp Shenandoah. Klondike is always fun and challenging. It provides an opportunity for Scouts to use the skills they have learned and to enjoy the fellowship with other units. There was lots of fun going on at Klondike.

The next weekend, on February 18th, we had a very nice Council Honors event, celebrating the accomplishments and noteworthy service of 2022. That event provided all the proof we need that the Scouting program in the Council is flourishing. There were over 20 (of our 90) new Eagle Scouts in attendance receiving their Council Eagle neckerchief and shoulder patch. We recognized the Outstanding Eagle Project of 2022 and awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Scouters received recognition for Conservation excellence, Outstanding Eagle Scout, and The Silver Beaver. Over 140 of our Scouting family members attended, enjoying the good food and the company of those who love Scouting. Given the challenges we have faced, it was a joyous night of celebration that was sorely needed.

Now, spring is approaching fast. Make sure your unit re-charters and prepares for the coming camping season. Like always, I am making a pitch for our summer camp at Camp Shenandoah. Please, please "Come Home To Camp Shenandoah". We need everyone to support our beautiful and fun Camp. We need you to care about the future of our Camp and Council. We need you.

Happy Scouting,

Steve Hammond - Council President
 steve.hammond@hammondtownsend.com
 434-962-5813

2022 HONORS

February 18, 2023

Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church

HONOREES

District Award of Merit

Monticello -	Curtis Kidd
	Marc Monfalcone
Massanutten -	Tirzah Mashue
Southern -	John Arpin
Valley -	Ray Collins

Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award -

Jeff Nelson

Scott Lee Distinguished Camp Service Award -

Charlie Trumbo

James E. West Fellow -

Ben Annan

Tate Conservation Award -

Harold Tate
Howard Davis

BSA Distinguished Conservation Award -

Howard Davis

Silver Beaver Award -

John Lindegren
Matt Phillippi

NESA Outstanding Eagle Scout -

Pete Echols
Daman Irby

Outstanding Eagle Scout Project -

Logan Lopez-Flores
Troop 48

Recognition of the 2022 Eagle Scouts

Happy Birthday - 2/22

Steve Hammond
Baden Powell

FRIENDS OF SCOUTING LUNCHEON - March 28, 2023

Dear Friends of Scouting Leaders:

We are excited to share with you, first hand, our speaker for 2023. We are proud to announce Denver Riggleman as the Friends of Scouting Luncheon speaker for 2023. Denver Riggleman is a local business owner, having opened a Distillery off of Rt. 151, in 2014. Additionally, he is a former Air Force officer and National Security Agency contractor. Denver is a former politician who served Virginia's 5th congressional district for one term.



You have been an important leader as part of our fundraising success for the FOS Luncheon in the past. Please join us at this year's event which will take place March 28th, 2023 at UVA's Alumni Hall. If you would like your company, or personal gift to be recognized on this year's invitation please reach out to me, susan.hart@scouting.org

Virginia Headwaters Council 2023 Friends of Scouting Luncheon – Sponsorship Levels**Presenting: \$7,500 and above**

- Large Company Logo on top of sponsor list on all invitations, table stands, programs and banner presentations
- Two 8-10 table seating in front of room.
- Company information table near registration table (optional).
- Business promotional items added to all tables (25-28) (optional).
- 12 Month Listing on Council Website, Newsletter (The Tributary) and Facebook Page

Cabinet: \$5,000

- Medium Company Logo on sponsor list on all invitations, table stands, programs and banner presentations.
- One 8-10 table seating in middle of room.
- Company information table near registration table (optional).
- 6 Month Listing on Council Website, Newsletter (The Tributary) and Facebook Page

Luncheon: \$2,500

- Small Company Logo on sponsor list on all invitations, table stands, programs and banner presentations.
- One 8-10 table seating in front of room.

Table: \$1,250

- Company Name on sponsor list on all invitations, table stands, programs and banner presentations.
- One 8-10 table seating in front of room.

For additional questions and information please contact Sue Hart 434-872-3320 or email susan.hart@scouting.org

We very much appreciate your past support and hope you will continue your generosity in the new year.

Thank you for your Friends of Scouting support,

Sue Hart

Assistant Scout Executive



Camp Shenandoah Summer Camp! Reservation Begins

Scouts and Scouters now is the time to get your units registered for Camp Shenandoah the upcoming 2023 summer session. We have a lot of new programming coming this year including addition of Robotics and Camping Merit Badges.

We have new outboard motors for Motorboating MB and hope to expand that program as well as Swimming MB.

Shooting Sports will be offering chalk ball and muzzle loading free shoots this year.

YOUR camp in YOUR Council needs YOU to join us in 2023! Sign up early to ensure your favorite week at camp!

June 18-21: Cub Resident Camp
June 21-24: Webelos Resident Camp
June 25– July 1: Scouts BSA Week 1
July 2—July 8: Scouts BSA Week 2
July 9—July 15: Scouts BSA Week 3
July 16—July 22: Scouts BSA Week 4

**Reservations now being accepted at
www.campshenandoah.org**



The Camp Shenandoah Staff is looking exceptionally strong for this summer. I am extremely excited to work with such an enthusiastic group of Scouts and Scouters as we return to the classics at Camp Shenandoah. Our major focus this summer is program, program, program. Our classes are gearing up to be hands-on and fun! We're delighted to report that week 1 is already full! Be sure your unit registers as soon as possible!

Pete Echols

Camp Director

CampShenandoahDirector@gmail.com



facebook.com/campshenandoah



VA Headwaters Council BSA Aquatics Program Winter 2023

**CLASS SIZE IS VERY LIMITED,
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!!**



LOCATION: Fork Union Military Academy, 4744 James Madison Hwy, Fork Union, VA 23055

GENERAL INFORMATION: Classes will be overseen by trained members of the Virginia Headwaters Council (VAHC) Aquatics Committee. Parents/Leaders are welcome to watch and/or participate. This is a great opportunity for Scouts to maintain aquatics skills over the winter and enable them to participate in advanced aquatics programs at summer camp. **Pre-registration is required for all classes.**

Swim Checks: These are included for Aquanaut and Scouts BSA class offerings, but this time are NOT being offered as a stand-alone event for other Scouts, parents, and leaders. Swim Checks are valid for one year and forms are emailed to unit leaders after the event. Swim Checks will be offered for Scouts, parents, and leaders in June 2023.

1. Swimming OR Lifesaving Merit Badge Classes *(Max class sizes 25 and 20, select only one)*

DATE / TIME: Saturday March 18th, 10:00am - 6:00pm

COST: \$35 to support fees (pay at sign in)

WHAT TO BRING: Medical Form Parts A/B, Blue Cards (Scoutbook sign-off is preferred, instructions will be provided), lunch/snacks/drinks if desired, towel, change of clothes

2. Scouts BSA Rank Advancement

Participants can work on either 2nd or 1st Class aquatics rank requirements.

DATE / TIME: Saturday March 18th, 1:00pm – 3:00pm

COST: \$10 to support fees (pay at sign in)

WHAT TO BRING: Medical Form Parts A/B, Scouts BSA Handbook (for sign-offs), towel, change of clothes

3. Cub Scout and Webelos Program

All aquatics related Cub Scout rank elements (electives/adventures) will be offered along with Aquanaut Award. Parents/leaders are welcome to participate and support their child. Swim Checks for Webelos can also be taken for summer 2023 Webelos Resident Camp.

DATE / TIME: Saturday March 18th, 2:00 - 5:00pm

COST: \$10 to support fees (pay at sign-in)

WHAT TO BRING: Medical Form Parts A/B, Cub Scout Handbook (for sign-offs), towel, change of clothes

HEALTH FORMS: All of the above programs require Medical Form Parts A/B (bring to event), available here:

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf

REGISTRATION: All class sizes are limited and registration is on a first come first serve basis. To register, please email the registration form on next page (or all requested info) to Eric Cutright (ericcutright@comcast.net).

CONTACT: Please contact Jay Fox (jayfox8x@gmail.com) for additional information or to volunteer for staff.



VA Headwaters Council BSA Aquatics Program Winter 2023






**CLASS SIZE IS VERY LIMITED,
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!!**



Registration Form

Scout Name:		Age:		Unit #:	
Parent Name:		Emer Contact #:			
		(valid for day of event)			
Parent Email:					
Unit Leader Name:					
Unit Leader Email:					
(for swim check forms)					

Activity Selection (check box on far right to make your selection):

Offering	Time	Fee	Check Box	
Saturday, March 18 th , 2023				
	Lifesaving Merit Badge (includes Swim Check)	10:00am - 6:00pm	\$35	
	Swimming Merit Badge (includes Swim Check)	10:00am - 6:00pm	\$35	
	2 nd or 1 st Class Rank Reqts (includes Swim Check)	1:00 - 3:00pm	\$10	
	Tiger	2:00 - 5:00pm	\$10	
	Wolf	2:00 - 5:00pm	\$10	
	Bear	2:00 - 5:00pm	\$10	
	Webelos / Aquanaut (includes Swim Check)	2:00 - 5:00pm	\$10	

Note: All program fees and health forms are collected at sign-in on the day of the event. Please remember to take health forms home with you as you leave the event, otherwise they will be shredded.

Note: Swim Checks are valid from one year from date of check, and will also be offered again in June 2023

To register: Please email this complete form (or all requested info) to: Eric Cutright ericcutright@comcast.net



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
VIRGINIA HEADWATERS COUNCIL

Merit Badge Day @ BRCC

SATURDAY APRIL 22ND

**Houff Student Center
Weyers Cave Campus**

We will have the following Merit Badges:

MORNING 8:00 AM - NOON

- Veterinary Medicine
- Healthcare Careers
- Scouting Heritage
- Traffic Safety

**HOT DOG LUNCH 12-1 pm
Drone Demonstration**

AFTERNOON 1-5 PM

- Scholarship
- Electronics
- Truck Transportation

This is a free event. Scouts/Scouters who attend both a morning and an afternoon session will receive a free lunch. Don't miss the drone demonstration during lunch!

Register here:

<https://tinyurl.com/47b5xdvk>



Blue Ridge
Community College



MONTICELLO District

District Chair: Ed Murphy

District Commissioner: Michelle McCrone

Ed Murphy: emm8xuva@gmail.com

Michelle McCrone: eodmommy@hotmail.com

District Executive:

Gone Home

Vic Pena (1938-2023)

Alfonso Victor "Vic" Pena, a Scouter with Troop 79 and formerly with Pack 79 of the Crozet United Methodist Church passed away at the age of 83. From 2011-2022, Vic was a Troop Committee Member with Troop 79. From 2008-2011, he volunteered as an Assistant Den Leader with Pack 79.

Before coming to the Charlottesville area, Vic served in the U.S. Army, earning a Bronze Star in Vietnam and retiring as a Colonel after 26 years of service. He was active in the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, the local Republican party, and the Military Officers Association of America. You can read his obituary at: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/charlottesville-va/alfonso-pena-11081806>

Vic embodied every point of the Scout Law and the Scout Oath. He was a wonderful example to everyone of a life well lived.

The Monticello District has awarded the District Award of Merit to Curtis Kidd and Marc Monfalcone.

Curtis Kidd (on the left) is an outstanding volunteer who serves at the unit, district, and council levels and in the Order of the Arrow. He is currently serving as Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 154. In the



Monticello District, Curtis volunteers as the District Awards Chair and he volunteers to help with the Apple Harvest Camporee. At the Council level, Curtis has served as a staff member for four previous Wood Badge courses and has volunteered to serve again on the upcoming course in fall 2023. The Order of the Arrow recognized Curtis for his distinguished service with the Vigil Honor in 2019.

Marc Monfalcone (on the right) is an amazing volunteer who serves at the unit, district, and council levels. Marc is currently serving as the Scoutmaster of Troop 1154, as an assistant scoutmaster in Troop 154, and as the Lion Den Leader in Pack 154. Marc has been a tireless advocate for Scouting and has shown exceptional leadership in his role as the Monticello District Advancement Chair and as the Virginia Headwaters Council Advancement Chair. As the VAHC Advancement Chair, Marc coordinates the annual Merit Badge Counselor renewal process, manages the Council Eagle Scout process, and provides guidance and leadership for the District Advancement Chairs.



MONTICELLO - continued:

The Monticello District's annual Awards and Recognition Dinner will be held on Thursday, March 2, 2023 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post 74, 3025 Louisa Road, Keswick, VA 22947.

The evening will begin with a quick opening and then a pot-luck dinner followed by the Awards and Recognition program. This year, we are honoring the District Award of Merit honorees (see separate article) and the following Monticello District Scouts and Scouters:

For showing exceptional Scouting Spirit, **Renee Brown** of Troop 1003 and **Jennifer Varshavsky** of Pack 206 have been awarded the Spirit of Scouting Award.

Cub Scouts **Logan Chandler** of Pack 183 and **Cameron Doench** of Pack 77 have been awarded the **Outstanding Cub Scout of the Year** award for outstanding service to Scouting, their community, church, or unit.

Scout **Georgia Brown** of Troop 1003 has been awarded the **Outstanding Scouts BSA Scout of the Year** for outstanding service to Scouting, their community, church, or unit.

Akhil Marri of Troop 111 has received the **Outstanding Eagle Project of the Year** award for valuable service to their community through the completion of an exceptional Eagle Scout Project.

The following people have been awarded the **Unit Scouter of the Year** award by their respective units for noteworthy service over the past year:

Ashley Harris - Pack 183 Bear Den Leader

Brian Doench - Pack 77 AOLs Assistant Den Leader

Chris Axford - Troop 3711 Scoutmaster

David Reynolds - Troop 241 Scoutmaster

Edward Heisig - Troop 37 Committee Member

Ginny Thompson - Troop 1028 Committee Chair

Greg Allen - Pack 79 Parent Volunteer

Hunter Wood - Troop 75 Community Member and Volunteer

John Ball - Troop 3 Assistant Scoutmaster

Laura Gay - Troop 111 Troop Activity Coordinator

Laura Polliard - Pack 183 Tiger Den Leader

Leslie Trapp - Pack 154 Advancement Chair

Heather and Mark Chamberlain - Pack 141 Den Leaders

Mike Jackman - Troop 174 Committee Member

Peter Demko - Pack 174 Tiger Den Leader and Committee Member

Ruth Ellerbe - Troop 1029 Scouter

Lauren and Shaun Devane - Troop 154 Troop Committee and Treasurer

Thank you everyone for all that you are doing for Scouting and for our youth!

SAVE THE DATE:

Mar 15 - 6:30	Dist Commissioner Meeting
Mar 15 - 7:30	District Committee Meeting
	American Legion Post 74
Mar 18 - 9:00 AM	Winter Aquatics
Mar 15 -	Trainers EDGE
Mar 28 - 11:30 AM	Friends of Scouting Luncheon
	UVA Alumni Hall
Mar 31-Apr 2	IOLS, BALOO, Wilderness
	First Aid - Camp Shenandoah
Apr 6 - 7:00	Roundtable - Monticello High
Apr 15 -	ShenandoahFEST
Apr 22-23	Cub Scout Aviation Day
Jun 18-20	Cub Family Camping
June 21-24	Webelos Resident Camp
Sep 22-24, Oct 14-15	Wood Badge Course
Oct 6-8	Apple Harvest Camporee



**SPRING IS ON ITS WAY, AND
TIME IS FLYING TOWARDS
CUB SCOUT AVIATION DAY!**



This yearly event scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 2023, takes place at Gordonsville Municipal Airport just outside of the Town of Gordonsville in Orange County.

Check-in begins at 12:30pm with the opening ceremony at 1:00pm. Daytime activities and exhibits will continue until 4:00pm and are provided by organizations such as the Virginia Department of Aviation, the Virginia Military Aviation Museum, the National Weather Service Aviation Program, Experimental Aircraft Association, and others. The Air Force ROTC will provide the opening flag ceremony and a recorded message will be delivered by a current astronaut who also earned his Eagle Scout award. Scouts BSA volunteers will host hands-on activities and provide Wolves the opportunity to earn the Air of the Wolf belt loop. Gordonsville Municipal Airport has a brand new runway and is expecting more airplane fly-ins this year. Don't miss the tour of planes! Tigers who participate in daytime and evening activities will have the opportunity to earn the Sky is the Limit beltloop. Evening activities take place from 7:30-9:30pm, many of which will focus on space. The mobile planetarium from the UVA Department of Astronomy's Dark Skies, Bright Kids program will provide those who attend during the evening a much closer view of the heavens. Every Scout who participates in evening activities will receive a rocket copter! Families have the opportunity to camp onsite Saturday evening. Camping setup will take place following the afternoon activities.

Visit <https://www.vahcbsa.org/AviationDay> to learn more about the event and to register your family.

The deadline for t-shirt orders is April 1 with the cost being \$15 per shirt. For those who register and pay the fees by April 15, the entry fee per scout is \$12 for day activities and \$17 for day and evening/camping. Those who don't register in advance are absolutely welcome and pay \$22 at the gate. Fees are only for the Cub Scouts. Family members and leaders are free. There is a form in the Leader Guide for units that prefer to register and pay together. Families who choose to camp must complete a Camping Waiver and all campers must complete the Medical A&B forms. Each of these are accessible on the Aviation Day website. **Do not miss this Cub Scout Aviation Day!**



Cash prizes for First, Second and Third Places

MOUNTAIN VALLEY DISTRICT

04 · 29 · 2023

SATURDAY

GOLF TOURNAMENT
VIRGINIA HEADWATERS COUNCIL • BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

CLIFF VIEW
FALLING SPRING
VIRGINIA

REGISTRATION: 8AM / TEE-OFF: 9AM

CLIFF VIEW GOLF COURSE
410 FRIELS DR, COVINGTON, VA 24426

\$220 FOURSOME

INCLUDES FEES,
MULLIGANS, AND LUNCH

VAHCBSA.ORG/GOLF

CONTACT: 540-968-1343 | TAG474@AOL.COM

September 18, 2023 - Lexington Golf & Country Club - Lexington, VA AM and PM - 40 teams
\$220/team includes cart, mulligans, and lunch. Cash prizes to First, Second and Third places.



MOUNTAIN VALLEY District

District Chair: Dr. Lawrence Whitehurst

District Commissioner: Matthew Phillippi

Dr. Lawrence Whitehurst: lrwhitehurstmd@gmail.com

Matt Phillippi: mrphillippi@outlook.com

District Executive:

February was an exciting month for the district and the council. The Klondike Derby was a great success, and it was so good to see so many Scouts having fun out at Camp Shenandoah. Our council recognition dinner had a great turnout, and it was so great to recognize our Scouts and Scouters and all they did in 2022. Congratulations, again, to all of the last District Award of Merit recipients of the Massanutten, Southern, and Valley Districts.

We also had our first Roundtable of the new district and we had a great turnout, but I look forward to seeing more of you in March and moving forward. We have a lot of exciting plans for our Roundtables and we encourage all of our Scouters to be a part of them.

We are currently planning to put together a district leadership retreat. This will be for all registered Scouters in our district to come together for a little fun, fellowship, but also training and planning. We want to bring together everyone in the district to meet each other and get a good idea of how we will be moving forward. We are holding this on May 18-20 at Camp Shenandoah and we will have more information coming out, soon. So, keep an eye out!

We are still on the lookout for more folks to lend a hand on the district committee. If you would like to lend a hand with membership, doing FOS presentations, or supporting the program in the district please reach out! One thing we are planning for is a 2024 spring camporee. We are going to put one together and we want to start planning, now. If you are interested in helping, please send Matt and Doc an email.

March 31-April 2 there is IOLS and BALOO training being held. If you have never taken part in this

training, please make sure you do. Every youth deserves a trained leader. This program cannot happen without registered and trained adult leaders.

Finally, if you have not contacted Matt Phillippi with FOS presentation dates and/or your 2022 JTE paperwork, make sure you do! We need this from every unit in our district!

And of course, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out. Feedback is a gift.

Yours in Scouting,
Matt Phillippi
Mountain Valley District Commissioner

INTERESTED IN CUB SCOUT SHOOTING SPORTS?

If you'd like help run Cub Scout archery and BB Gun ranges at council and district events, we have a deal for you!

VAHC Shooting Sports is offering Cub Scout Rangemaster Training on Sunday, April 2, 2023. Training is FREE, and takes 2-4 hours, depending on class size and experience. Starting time TBD – we don't want to interfere with anyone taking IOLS or BALOO and wants this class as well.

If you're interested, please contact John Arpin, council shooting sports coordinator, arpinfamily@gmail.com.

No cost but pre-registration is required so we have enough materials on hand.





Hello fellow Scouts and Scouters.

Here are some updates on the state of Shenandoah Lodge in March.

Spring Fellowship

This is Shenandoah Lodge's first big event of the year. All Arrowmen are welcome to join us on March 24th - 26th. We will be giving service to Camp Shenandoah, bestowing our members with the Brotherhood Honor, and best of all, we will be preparing for Conclave. (Conclave!)

Four Seasons Pass

Starting now, Shenandoah Lodge has a special event pass up for purchase. This will make it easier to register all at once for our four main events, not to mention giving a discount as well. Dues can also be included, so you can get the most out of this year with Shenandoah Lodge. Maybe I sound like a bit of a salesman, but I am seriously glad we have this to offer you. You can check out the "Four Seasons Pass" here: shenandoahlodge.org/event/fourseasons

Unit Elections

Our Unit Elections season continues. By now, Shenandoah Lodge has visited many units across the Virginia Headwaters. If you have been recently elected to join the Order of the Arrow, welcome to our family of Brothers. I hope to see you at our Induction weekends this summer! Unit leaders, thank you for helping us schedule elections with your units. I will be attending a few elections soon, and I couldn't be more excited to visit all of you. However, the job is not done! Whether you have eligible scouts in your unit or not, it is our pleasure to visit and speak about Camp Shenandoah and the Order of the Arrow.

Finally, please keep a look out for updates on **Beaver Days**. We need your help getting Camp Shenandoah ready for this summer.

Ben Annan

Ben Annan | Lodge Chief
Achewiecheu Takachsin
ORDER OF THE ARROW
Shenandoah Lodge #258
(540) 688-7968

SHENANDOAH

Four Seasons Pass

100\$

Saves 10\$

- 2023 Dues
- Spring Fellowship
- June Induction
- August Induction
- Lodge Retreat

90\$

Saves 10\$

Already paid dues? No problem.

- Spring Fellowship
- June Induction
- August Induction
- Lodge Retreat

shenandoahlodge.org/event/fourseasons

Trained and pre-registered elangomats will earn 25\$ of Shenandoah Lodge store credit at June and August Inductions upon showing their receipt for this purchase. Payment for the Brotherhood Honor is included in both purchases if completed at one of these four events.

SAVE THE DATE



APRIL 15, 2023

JOIN US FOR AN ALL-AGES COUNCIL-WIDE DAY OF FUN HOSTED BY SHENANDOAH LODGE

2023




<https://shenandoahlodge.org>

Lodge Events

<p>7 January Winter Banquet</p> <p>17-19 February NLS/DYLC</p> <p>24-26 March Spring Fellowship</p> <p>15 April ShenandoahFEST</p> <p>28-30 April Conclave</p>	<p>2-4 June JUN Induction</p> <p>11-13 August AUG Induction</p> <p>26-27 August Vigil Event</p> <p>29 Sep-1 Oct Lodge Retreat</p> <p>4 November Day of Service</p>
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Unit Elections 1 Jan - 8 Apr



Virginia Headwaters Council, BSA

New Episode! Check out Camp Cast where you listen to your podcasts today

Season 2 Episode 2 of Camp Cast – The Blue and Gold:

<https://anchor.fm/vahcbsa/episodes/Season-2-Episode-2---The-BSA-Birthday-and-the-Blue-and-Gold-e1v92kr>

BSA's Wood Badge course turns 75, remains as relevant as ever

[By Aaron Derr February 13, 2023](#) [18 Comments](#) [Wood Badge](#)



Scout leaders go over their lesson for the day during Wood Badge training.

Photo by Michael Roytek

In more than 20 years of writing about the BSA, I've heard participants claim the "pinnacle" of their youth experience as anything from earning the rank of Eagle to taking a trip to a high-adventure base or even spending a week at summer camp with their friends.

But when it comes to the adult Scouting experience, there's only one pinnacle: Wood

Badge.

Wood Badge is an advanced leadership training course open to Scouting volunteers and participants ages 18 and older. Leaders from Cub Scouting, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts and Explorers all have something to gain from Wood Badge.

"If you ever thought about Wood Badge, I would suggest don't wait," [says Renee Estrella-Wells](#), a 2017 participant. "Take it as soon as you can. I have made friends that I am sure will be lifelong friendships. I have learned many new tools that I can apply in my life, family, work and Scouts. ... It truly is a life-changing experience."

What is Wood Badge?

Most councils offer a Wood Badge course at least once per year, either over two weekends or over consecutive days during one week. Participants are divided into patrols and learn how to better handle leadership skills such as listening, managing conflict, leading change, mentoring and project planning.

Participants leave with "tickets" — long-term projects designed to help them realize their personal vision of their role in Scouting. For example, one of the tickets might be to grow Scouting in some way or to encourage other leaders to take Wood Badge themselves.

How did Wood Badge begin?

The first Wood Badge course ever was held at [Gilwell Park](#) in England in 1919. It lasted nearly two weeks, and the participants [experienced a course devised by Scouting founder Robert Baden-Powell](#).

Much of the course involved learning practical Scouting skills, such as patrol jobs, ceremonies, flag courtesy, campcraft, pioneering, nature lore, signs and signals, Scout games, compass work, map making and drawing. Participants also took an eight-hour hike in the forest under "sealed orders" — meaning they didn't learn of the destination until the hike began.

Like today's course, the 1919 version included two parts: the in-person training and the application of the training in your home unit. Participant John Wilkinson, for example, went on to help develop Scouting in Ireland and Albania.

BSA's Wood Badge course turns 75, continues:

"When did Wood Badge come to the United States?"

Seventy-five years ago!

Wood Badge finally made it to the U.S. in 1948. Author Kenneth Davis wrote extensively about the BSA's adoption of the Wood Badge program in his book, [A History of Wood Badge in the United States](#).

After thriving overseas for decades, it took a Baden-Powell visit to Schiff Scout Reservation in New Jersey in 1935 to sow the seeds for American Wood Badge. Baden-Powell remarked that the 470-acre Scout camp — more than eight times larger than Gilwell Park — would make a great location for an American version of the course.

The first U.S. Wood Badge course was held at Schiff in July and August 1948. The course director and Scoutmaster was [William "Green Bar Bill" Hillcourt, known as the "Scoutmaster to the World."](#)

Has Wood Badge changed since then?

Yes!

The Wood Badge program has evolved over the years, [including an update in 2020](#) designed to make it more streamlined and accessible.

"The new course creates a warmer, friendlier, more inclusive and welcoming environment for participants," says Randy Cline, an Eagle Scout, Silver Buffalo recipient (2009), and a nearly 50-year Scouting volunteer from Mechanicsburg, Pa., who chaired the Wood Badge Update Task Force. "It should attract more participants."

But, what can Wood Badge do for me?

To this day, Wood Badge remains the highest level of Scout leader training available.

But don't take it from me. [Take it from Scouters who have experienced the course for themselves.](#)

"You will find things about yourself you never knew before," says one.

"So much takeaway that you will be able to use in the future not only in Scouting but in everyday life," says another.

"Wood Badge changed my life to the point that I made significant changes in order to support my personal vision and Scouting plan," says one participant who works for a company that itself specializes in work-place training. "I gained self-confidence, realized untapped skills and became a better person."

