Welcome to The Promise. It is the intent of the Central Region Outdoor Program Support Team (CROPS) to provide councils with information and tools to improve local outdoor program and help them to better deliver the Promise of Scouting.

**Our Vision:** To give every young person in Scouting the opportunity to obtain lasting values and a love for the outdoors, and to do so with safety, good facilities, and strong leadership.

**Our Mission:** To provide every council with sufficient tools to build a quality outdoor experience for young people in a safe and friendly environment, and to support the efforts of all councils to deliver the Promise of Scouting.

Look in this newsletter every quarter for news from the National Service Center, highlights from the Outdoor Program Task Forces and dates of upcoming events. Feel free to distribute this to any interested Scouter and we hope this will be beneficial to your work in the Scouting Movement.

**In this Issue**

- From the Chair 2
- Conservation 2
- Dan Hunt Note 3
- NCAP Update 3
- National Jamboree 2020 4
- Outdoor Conference Flyer 5-6
- Marketing 7
- Sea Scouts 7
CONSERVATION

Happy Holidays from the CR Conservation Team!

I am looking forward to meeting many of you at the regional CROPS meetings in January! I will be in Des Moines on January 18th and Indianapolis on January 25th. Presentations will focus on integrating sustainability and conservation into camp properties. Bruce Hamous will be presenting on sustainability, and brings a strong professional resume, along with direct volunteer experience on this subject. I will discuss conservation projects and partnerships that can help the property and enhance the experience of young people. We look forward to helping you move your camp properties forward!

The value of a Council Conservation Committee cannot be overstated, whether it’s helping with NCAP standards, maintaining camp properties, or helping with Hornaday awards. Check out the updated Council Conservation Committee Guidebook. You can find it at the link below.

We are still in the stages of planning a W. T. Hornaday Adviser Training for the Central Region for 2020. This critical training helps your scouts achieve this rare recognition in your council. We will keep you posted. There is a Hornaday Training event happening this Spring in Pennsylvania at Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation in Schuykill Haven, PA, March 20-22nd, 2020. For only $80, this event can set up your local council conservation committee with some of the best conservation adviser training the BSA offers! You can follow this link to register for this amazing event here:
https://hawkmountain.tentaroo.com/event/4282/16452/NER-Hornaday-Adviser-Training

Ted Weiland
Central Region Lead Conservation and Hornaday Awards
FROM THE REGIONAL VP OF OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Like Scouting in general, Outdoor Adventures is evolving and growing. The evolution has been difficult and at times trying. Also, like Scouting, I believe we are beginning to see the positive effects of our efforts. As usual the Central Region led the way by developing our Outdoor Program Support Team (CROPS). NCAP evolved nationally and has resulted in a program designed to bring a continuous improvement process to our camping program. Recently, the Central Region organized a Property Evaluation Team (PET) that is considered a pilot program by the BSA.

These three programs (CROPS/NCAP/PET) are three legs of a stool representing the tools we have to help our councils achieve their Outdoor Adventure goal. The same goal that each of us have: to provide the safest, most appealing, and fiscally sound outdoor program available to the youth of America.

It’s an uphill battle. Let’s not mince word; there are many within Scouting who simply do not take advantage of the tools we make available. I don’t take this personally, we’re all busy! Remember that old adage about leading a horse to water.

We need everyone reviewing this newsletter to share the value our Outdoor Adventures Team can bring to the councils we support! It is our collective responsibility to lead that horse to the water – again and again and again. Eventually it will drink. Please tell your councils and the volunteers in your Area about how Outdoor Adventures can help them. We are all – all of us – working toward the same goal.

Central Region VP-Outdoor Adventures

NCAP UPDATE

New NCAP standards will be on Scouting.org/NCAP towards the end of December. In the meantime, there is a high-level look at the significant changes.

New in 2020 is an On-Line training (Info below) that assessors need to complete each year prior to the face-to-face training and assessment visits.

The training is available at: https://www.courses.leaderosity.org/boy-scouts-of-america

Code is: NCAP12020

The traditional training is still required. This is an opportunity to distribute the current standards and orient team members to the assessment process.

YIS,

Jason Kasiorek
Assessment Chair
2021 NATIONAL JAMBOREE

Are you ready to “Face The Challenge”? We’re getting busier by the day with more information and details for the next National Jamboree. Dates for the participants will be Wednesday, July 21, through Friday, July 30. Every council in the Central Region has made a commitment to send a contingent to the event, and local council committees are very busy working on travel plans, tours, leader recruiting, and the myriad of other details involved with this mountain top Scouting event. We already have commitments for as many participants from the Central Region to attend the 2021 Jamboree as actually attended the 2017 Jamboree, but we still have room for more.

What's different this time? This time groups as small as 10 can sign up and will consist of 8 youth and 2 adults to meet the 2 deep leadership rules. A Troop can consist of 32 youth and 8 adults or the traditional 36 youth and 4 adults. In 2021 the 3rd Assistant Scoutmaster recommended age is 18-21 years old but not required. Girls who are members of the Scouts BSA can also attend as part of an all-girl unit or patrol. Girl patrols will be matched with other girl patrols to fill a Troop site. The same will apply to Scouts BSA Boy patrols. Youth must be 12 years old by the first day of the Jamboree. If you are interested, contact your local council or attend our Jamboree breakout session at the CROPS conferences in January.

Speaking of staff, the BSA is following the lead of the World Scout Jamboree last summer, and is now referring to this as the Service Team. You can get details for all Service Team positions by visiting the Jamboree website at: https://jamboree.scouting.org/. Positions in some areas are already full, so sign up soon. An extra incentive is offered for the first 2100 Scouters that sign up for the Service Team and pay the initial deposit. They will receive a special limited-edition patch (you can see it on the website). There are many ways to serve and several of the service team positions allow you to attend one week of the event. And just like every other BSA activity, without the adults volunteering, the youth won’t get the chance to attend this life changing event. We NEED you to come “Face The Challenge” with us.

Aaron Randolph

ARTICLE

Here is a link to an article highlighting the benefits of outdoor experiences for youth today and focuses on the efforts of the Michigan Crossroads Council.

Once again in 2020, the Region Outdoor Adventure Group is proud to offer two conferences that provide you with shorter travel time and date options to help you attend and learn how to better serve youth in outdoors. These conferences are open to any Scouter or Scouting professional at all levels – unit, district, council, area, regional, or national – with an interest in Outdoor Programs, NCAP, and Resident Day Camp. There will be sessions exclusive to Cub Scouts in the outdoors and more session opportunities in 2020, specifically, a 2-block session for professionals and volunteers involved in Cub Scout Day Camp program. New this year, Scout executives can use courses from either conference for their Camp Rangers Continuing Education Hours credit.

The 2020 conferences will be emphasizing sustainability. As part of this emphasis, we will not be providing coffee cups or bottled water, so be sure to bring your own coffee cup or refillable water bottle. We will “Do Our Best” to reduce our impact by recycling as much as possible.

When registering, you will select four sessions (two in the morning and two after lunch) in order to obtain the full session menu and meet regional leaders of Outdoor Adventure. Bring a friend and share the experience!

Information regarding the 2021 Scouts BSA Jamboree will be available, as well, with some exciting updates on how troops will be organized for the 2021 Jamboree at the Summit.

Cost is $30 per person for food and materials. Field uniform is appropriate. Please share any dietary restrictions when you register online. Check-in opens at 7:30 a.m. local time and the conference opens at 8:45 a.m. Closing is around 2:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required; for Des Moines by January 12 and Lawrence by January 19. All fees are prepaid; no checks. Walk-in fee is $50, cash only. You will be notified by mail two days prior if cancelled due to inclement weather. Please click on one of the links below to register for the conference you will be attending:

January 18 - Des Moines, IA
January 25 - Lawrence, IN

Page 2 of this flyer contains thumbnails of the sessions scheduled so you can select ones that will make the most of your experience. We look forward to seeing you in January!!

Questions? Contact:

Dan Hunt, Regional Vice President dhunt@hunet.net
Dan Gille, Region Outdoor Program Chair dcgille@gmail.com
David Truax, Area 2 Director david.truax@scouting.org
2020 Outdoor Conferences Session Menu

9:15 to 11:10 or 12:10 to 2:00 pm

**Cub Day Camp Program Ideas:** A two block session dedicated to new and innovative Cub Scout Outdoor Adventures including Family Camp Adventure.

2:15 to 2:40

**General Session – Family Adventure Camping**

**9:15 and 12:10 Sessions**

**Camping is a Business:** Innovative strategies to help focus on the business side of operating a camping program and facility. Key topic for the local council finance and VP of Camping.

**Family Scouting - Facilities:** Discussion of facilities, challenges, and opportunities for our camps today.

**High Adventure Updates (Philmont & Sea Base):** Sessions will be led by reps from the four National High Adventure Bases as they share details on new programs and facilities.

**How to Promote Cub Scouting:** Session for Cub Scout program leaders focusing on marketing for Cub Scout

**NCAP Updates:** Primarily for Scouters involved with camp operation and for NCAP assessment team members.

**Shooting Sports:** Get ideas for how shooting sports can be incorporated into Family Scouting events and activities.

**10:20 and 1:10 Sessions**

**Conservation & Sustainability for Councils:** Preview the new ideas in Conservation and Sustainability at camp properties.

**COPE & Climbing:** Thorough discussion of new programs, facilities, equipment, and regulations.

**FiiX Software; Properties Maintenance Simplified:** Simplify property maintenance. This comprehensive software is a great and economical tool to help manage your ongoing operations.

**Fishing – The Gateway to Girls in Scouting:** Introduce girls to outdoor activities through various fishing programs for beginners.

**High Adventure Updates (Northern Tier & Summit):** Sessions will be led by reps from the four National High Adventure Bases as they share details on new programs and facilities.

**Jamboree Promotion:** With less than 20 months to the 2021 Scouts BSA Jamboree, take a look at programming, local council registration/promotion, and staff needs.
MARKETING

Below is a link to some of the marketing resources being produced by the National Council. Be sure to take a look and take advantage of these great promo pieces!

https://m.email.scouting.org/rest/head/mirrorPage/@39WF8FoNG9OLDS5qASgdQENnt-u3vIjGR3pArydzC9e0w62VGihYtfMplm4RFtB-5XMcz65e3pM2O2s4oNsLBXkDLCNVyP_XPYNThPQu7j6lw34.html

SEA SCOUTS

Below is a report that was recently shared at a meeting of the Area 7 committee. It gives you an idea of another way to deliver the Scouting experience to a new audience through Sea Scouts.

An update on Sea Scouting in Area 7:

We’ve been working over the past year to heavily promote Sea Scouting throughout SE Wisconsin. There’s quite a bit of buzz going around now and it’s paid off with three new Sea Scout Ships started in just the Wisconsin portion of Area 7 this year (and we’re still working with groups in the Madison & Oconomowoc areas to try to start new Ships there as well). We’re also exploring ways that we might work with local summer camps and OA lodges to try to spread word about Sea Scouts through those organizations.

Last month, we piloted a “Fall Sea Scout Retreat” program in Pewaukee, WI, where the participating Sea Scout Ships did training, networking, and some program planning for 2020. We’re hoping to extend this Retreat to an Area-wide event in 2020. Other specific plans for 2020 include:

(1) Connecting with the Coast Guard Auxiliary groups in the Area 7 territory (Sea Scouts has now officially partnered with the Coast Guard Auxiliary as their official “youth” program)

(2) Establishing Council-level leadership for Sea Scouting in all Area 7 Councils (at least appointing a Council Commodore in each Council to serve as that Council’s “point person” for Sea Scouting

(3) Establishing an Area 7 Youth “Quarterdeck” (similar to the Area Venturing Officers Association).

That’s all for now. Let me know if you have any questions or if there’s anything that you need from me.

Yours in Scouting,

Andrew Paprocki

Area Sea Scout Commodore, Central Region, Area 7
### 2020 CENTRAL REGION NCAP TRAINING DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3/14/2020</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Gateway Area Council – Camp Decorah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4/4/2020</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Northern Star Council – King Family Leadership Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4/18/2020</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Fox Valley Technical College - - Appleton, WI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3/21/2020</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>DeVos Family Center for Scouting - - Grand Rapids, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4/18/2020</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Michigan Crossroads Council Lansing HQ - - Lansing, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3/28/2020</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Camp Illinek Sailing Center - - Chatam, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5/2/2020</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Beaumont Scout Reservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4/25/2020</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Hawkeye Area Council Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4/1/2020</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Simon Kenton Council Service Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4/4/2020</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>Cedar Lakes Conference Center - - Ripley, WV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4/7/2020</td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>Camp Manatoc - - Peninsula, OH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4/4/2020</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Cornhusker Council Service Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4/18/2020</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Quivara Council Service Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4/18/2020</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Mid America Council Service Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>4/25/2020</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Heart of America Council Service Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2/29/2020</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Aurora Police Department - - Aurora, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3/28/2020</td>
<td>9am</td>
<td>Three Harbors Council Service Center - - Milwaukee, WI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COPE & CLIMBING

At the fall meeting of the COPE and Climbing sub-committee, several policy changes were made and new initiatives started.

As of December 31, 2019, the Continuing Education program is being discontinued. You will no longer be able to recertify through this program. The primary reason was the continuing education credits did not align with the NCS syllabus. The risk was individuals could be recertified, but may not be aware of the latest information concerning standards, safety issues or best practices. If you did recertify using this process prior to 12/31/19, your certification will be valid until the expiration date on the card.

Also, as of December 31, 2019, the Program Managers course will be discontinued, and will be replaced with the COPE & Climbing Program Trainer Course. If you have valid Program Manager certification, it will be valid until the expiration date on the card. As a Program Manager you can train Level 1 and 2 instructors using an approved training program. The only difference is your course must be registered through scoutsonrope.org. (see below). This can only be done by the Regional Chair.

The COPE & Climbing Program Trainer Course will be an NCS course registered through the national office, but set up by the Regional Chairs. Only NCS trained COPE & Climbing Directors will be allowed to take the course. It will not be open to Level 2 trained individuals. Additionally, participants will need to demonstrate they have been active in their respective COPE& Climbing program before being admitted to the course. Once individuals complete the course, then they will be allowed to develop their own in council training, following the current Program Manager model. The sub-committee is in the final stages of development and writing the curriculum for this course. This includes additional documentation that participants will need to bring to the class. Once that is completed, I will be sending out additional information via the area advocates. There is also a plan to have the process available on scouting.org. Updated information on this program will be presented at the Regional Outdoor Conferences in January.

After a collaborative effort by the sub-committee and the national office, a new software program called Scouts On Rope was developed. This software is designed to track participation in all COPE & Climbing training programs including National Camp School, Council Level 1 and Level 2 approved training programs. We discovered that all training, especially at the council level, was not being recorded in a central location, and it was not correlated with NCS training. Secondly, some of the training was being conducted by councils whose Training Program Evaluation had expired or had not been completed. This software was designed to address those two issues. We will be implementing this program starting January 1, 2020. All training, NCS and Council, will need to be registered in Scouts on Rope to be considered valid. This will provide individuals with a complete list of all their COPE & Climbing training. Like with anything new, I am sure there will be glitches that develop, and I ask you to be patient as we work through this. To help the process, I would encourage you and the individuals you
train to go to scoutsonrope.org and set up a profile. Secondly, as the regional chair, I cannot set up a council Level 2 course without a valid Training Program Evaluation (TPE). In preparation for this, I have been reviewing the current valid TPE’s I have on file. I know I do not have a complete list of all council training programs. Please review your files, check with your area advocate and the TPE who conducted your evaluation, and ask them to send the completed TPE to me at harrits@earthlink.net.

John Harrits – Central Region Chair – COPE/Climbing

MEET THE CROPS TEAM!

Chair ................................. Daniel Gille  dcgille@gmail.com
Conservation Sub Committee ....... Ted Weiland  ted.weiland@gmail.com
Cub Camping Resource ............. Jay Oakman  bsafox@yahoo.com
Camping Sub Committee/Newsletter .... Dan Gille  dcgille@gmail.com
Outdoor Ethics Sub Committee ....... Toby Green  greentoby58@gmail.com
Cope & Climbing Sub Committee ...... John Harrits  harrits@sbcglobal.net
Shooting Sub Committee ............. Ralph Shuster  rgschuster.nra@gmail.com
Fishing Task Sub Committee ......... Mike Brand  Michaelbrand314@gmail.com
Aquatics Sub Committee............. Terry Budd  paddler@ameritech.net
National Support .................... Brian Gray  Brian.gray@scouting.org
Strategic Analysis & Facilities ....... John Makowski  johnmakowski@live.com
Management Sub Committee ...........
Happy New Year!

Welcome to a new year and a new decade. Scouting has faced many challenges and seen many changes and will face many more in the new year and the new decade. The job of the CROPS Team remains the same - - to do everything we can to support local councils in presenting the best possible outdoor experiences for all the members of Scouts BSA. We have many new members - - youth and adult, male and female - - who are asking Scouting to help them achieve their goals in Scouting, in life and in personal development. A big challenge, but certainly doable. What better way to do that than to get them outdoors?

Each January the CROPS Team presents a Winter Outdoor Program Conference and 2020 will not be different. We will be welcoming hundreds of Scouters to Des Moines on January 18th and to Indianapolis on January 25th. You’ll find registration details in this issue. If you have never been or if you a returning veteran, we would love to see you at one or both conferences. We have recruited subject matter experts from around the Central Region and from the National Council. The conference will offer a 2-hour workshop on Cub Day Camp program ideas and sessions on promoting Cub Camping. There will be updates from Conservation, Shooting Sports, Fishing and Cope & Climbing. There are two sessions dedicated to helping councils improve the financial sustainability of their camps and camping operations.

So, recruit a carload or two from your council, and make the trip to one of the conferences. We would love to see all of you.

Looking a little further down the road, the National Jamboree returns to the Summit in 2021. There are lot of changes in the Jamboree for 2021. We will be providing updates at the winter conferences. (See Aaron Randolph’s article on page 4)

This edition of The Promise marks the 8th year we have been producing this newsletter. It is still the best method of getting critical information into the hands of unit, district and council volunteers. Remember, these are the folks who are delivering The Promise of Scouting, so please share this newsletter as widely as possible. We are always happy to add new names to our email list.

Yours in Scouting,

Dan Gille

262.902.3836
dcgille@gmail.com
Editor: Dan Gille  dcgille@gmail.com
Special Thanks to Karen Gille for proofreading and layout.