



# The Promise



## Outdoor Program Newsletter Spring 2019

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

Where do I find . . . ?	2
Aquatics	3
COPE and Climbing	4
2019 Awards	5
Shooting Sports	5-8
Annie Oakley Club Evet	9
Baseball "Scout Uniform" Jerseys	10

Top 10 Questions About Scouts	11-14
Top 10 Merit Badges	14
Meet the CROPS Team	15
Chairman’s Comments	16

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### ***“Where do I find...?”***

Have you ever found yourself asking this question about a BSA Aquatics program? Or have you ever found yourself on the receiving end of an aquatic-related question, “Where do I find...?”

The answers to most BSA Aquatics questions can be found on the Aquatics pages at the Scouting.org website. The Aquatics web pages are updated regularly with the most current versions of BSA Aquatics policies and programs. There are three Aquatics pages: Aquatics Program, Local Council Aquatics Committee and Aquatics Resources.

The “Aquatics Program” is the main page and provides important updates, as well as a link to the most recent BSA Aquatics newsletter and other program information and policies.

From the Aquatics program page, you can click on the “Local Council Aquatics Committee” or “Aquatics Resources pages.”

The Local Council Aquatics Committee page provides an overview of the role of your Council’s Aquatics Committee and how to start an Aquatics Committee. There is also information about specific responsibilities including training, program delivery, advancement, safety and recruiting, and retaining qualified volunteers to deliver Aquatics programs at the unit, district and council level.

The Aquatics Resources web page is where you’ll find an overview of each Aquatics program and detailed instructions on how to set-up and run a successful program. There are also brief instructional videos for Kayaking and Canoeing that are part of the Aquatics Supervision – Paddle Craft Safety program.

The Aquatics web pages are easy to navigate and provide the most current information about BSA Aquatics programs for youth, unit leadership and other adult volunteers.

To visit the BSA Aquatics webpages, please click on:

[www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/aquatics/](http://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/aquatics/)

*Terry Budd, Central Region Aquatics Chair*

# AQUATICS

## Aquatics Standards Changes Highlighted in NCAP Circular No. 12

When the BSA National Camp Standards are revised, the latest changes are communicated by the National Camp Accreditation Program in Circulars, which are available on-line at [bsa.org](http://bsa.org). In addition, these updated standards are also available at the NCAP website.

For 2019, some Aquatics related standards have been revised. NCAP Circular No. 12 was released on November 21, 2018 and highlights the standard changes for 2019. Revised Standards that have Aquatics related information are:



- PD-104 Venturing and Sea Scouting Program Design
- PD-105 Specialty Adventure and High Adventure Program Design
- PS-201 Aquatics General
- SQ-402 General Camp Staff Training
- SQ-406 Aquatics Staff

Note that there was an update to the CDC's Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) 5.8.5.3.9 for Personal Protective Equipment in 2018. For 2019, revisions to NCAP mandate councils comply with these requirements from the MAHC. For example, lifeguards on duty outdoors must meet training requirements, carry a rescue tube, signaling device, gloves, and resuscitation mask, and wear polarized sunglasses.

In general, whether the council, as employer, pays for required training and gear is left to local discretion. For example, a camp might provide a free staff shirt but require aquatics staff to bring their own swimsuits.

However, there are OSHA legal requirements that supersede both NCAP and MAHC standards. The Annex to the MAHC notes that OSHA requires employers to provide lifeguards, at no cost to the employee, appropriate personal protective equipment against blood borne pathogens, including gloves and a resuscitation mask. However, a separate OSHA rule exempts employer from having to pay for polarized sunglasses even though such eyewear is required by the MAHC.

The link for NCAP Standards and Circulars is:

<https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/camp-accreditation/>

## COPE/CLIMBING

Spring has either come, or is on its way in the Central Region. With spring comes bugs, with bugs comes woodpeckers. Last year I received several inquiries on how to fix woodpecker damage to poles. When I worked at ACCT, one of our vendors, UK Utility Solution Provider Ltd., offered a product they said repaired the damaged pole and prevented further damage. The product, IPOLE-WPK, uses a fiberglass reinforced expanding polymer concrete to repair the pole. The material also contains a blend of natural organic food fragrances which they claim keeps the woodpeckers from returning. If you are having woodpecker problems, this may be another possible solution. For further information, their web site is [www.usahrcr.com](http://www.usahrcr.com)

Did you ever wonder when your current NCS or Level 2 council certification card was going to expire, or when you could enroll in a class to be recertified, or when you had last taken a class? The COPE/Climbing Subcommittee is developing a new software program, Scouts On Rope, which will allow you to answer all those questions. When fully implemented, all NCS and council Level 2 training will be part of this data base. Councils will also have the option of entering their own Level 1 training. Currently, we are testing the program with a few councils. If you have a Level 2 training coming up and are interested in being part of the development process, please contact me for further information.

The Central Region is working towards having a Climbing or COPE trained person available to the NCAP assessment teams when they assess a camp with a climbing or COPE program. If you are Climbing or COPE certified, I want to encourage you to take the NCAP assessors training and volunteer to be on an assessment team.

*John Harrits*  
Central Region COPE & Climbing Chair



## 2019 CENTRAL REGION SILVER ANTELOPES

Congratulations to the 8 Central Region Scouters who will be honored with the Silver Antelope at the 2019 National Annual Meeting:

Ray Bartlett

Ed Basar

Curt Brookhart

Art King

Greg Nygren

John Savage

Amanda Vogt

Bruce Williams



**Well done!**

## 2019 SILVER BUFFALO

The Silver Buffalo Award, created in 1925, is bestowed upon those who give truly noteworthy and extraordinary service to youth. This award, Scouting's highest commendation, recognizes the invaluable contributions that outstanding American men and women render to youth.

This year, long time Scouting Volunteer, Dan Segersin, from Area 1 Central Region, will receive the Silver Buffalo at the 2019 National Annual Meeting.

Congratulations, Dan!

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## SHOOTING SPORTS

2019 brings many opportunities to increase opportunities for youth & adults in Shooting Sports activities & training events.

### BSA National Camp School

The schedule for BSA National Camp School, and the NRA Rifle & Shotgun Instructor courses has been set and training is underway. This information is found on the [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org) website by going to either National Camp School pages or the Shooting Sports webpages. Many Councils are still looking for Shooting Sports Directors for their resident camps. This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone recently retired who wants to spend time in shooting sports. Perhaps he, or she, would like to experience

another Council camp in another state. If you have never attended NCS, think about it. You'll learn many new programs & teaching methods.

## **NRA Training Updates**

NRA Instructor Training updates have been issued for several of the disciplines. Every NRA-TC needs to insure they are using the current materials. NRA Pistol Instructor, NRA Rifle Instructor, and NRA Shotgun Instructor have updates and new materials published. NRA-TCs should always check for updates on the [www.nrainstructors.org](http://www.nrainstructors.org) website. Note that to become a certified NRA Instructor, the candidate must first complete NRA Basic for the discipline and NRA Basic Instructor Training prior to attending a NRA Instructor course. There are no waivers for experience, and the Basic course must be attended after 2015. No shortcuts, just the NRA program for the discipline.

## **NRA Training Counselor – Development Workshop**

There are several Councils that do not have a NRA-TC available. Only an NRA-TC may teach Instructor classes and certify new Instructors. The NRA Training & Education Department has agreed to host an NRA-TCDW this fall. There are distinct requirements to apply, and you must be accepted as a candidate. The NRA-Instructor candidate must be actively teaching NRA courses, not BSA Merit Badges. Every candidate will be thoroughly vetted. Candidates must attend the NRA-TCDW and pass a pistol shooting qualification test. Pistol shooting is conducted with a 9mm or larger caliber gun. Failure rate for candidates is approximately 50%. This course typically costs over \$600 but the NRA-T&E is offering this at no cost. Candidates must pay for transportation, lodging, and food. The NRA-TCDW will be held at the NRA Headquarters in Fairfax, VA. Contact Ralph Schuster ([rgschuster.nra@gmail.com](mailto:rgschuster.nra@gmail.com)) for more information. Only 16 candidates will be accepted. **Immediate response is necessary as this is a limited offer.**

## **NRA & NSSF Grants**

Every year the NRA, NSSF, and other organizations provide grants, matching grants, or products to help organizations provide shooting sports programs. The BSA receives substantial support, but we receive much less than other organizations. We can change this distribution ratio, but it requires our participation and support. Attend your local Friends of the NRA Banquet (FNRA). The FNRA in your county and state approve the grants. Every Council Shooting Sports Committee should try to attend the FNRA banquets in their area. The FNRA needs to know how much the BSA depends on their support.



## 2019 Opportunities

### World Jamboree

This will be the only chance many of us have to participate in a World Jamboree in the USA. Time is fleeting to register with your Council contingent or to volunteer as staff.

### Philmont Training Center

Week 11 (Sept. 15-21) Shooting Sports – Want to learn more about BSA Shooting Sports beyond your “on the job training”? This is the conference to go to and experience what we have to offer.

Week 12 (Sept. 25-29) National Outdoor Conference – This is a conference for professionals and volunteers in BSA Outdoor Programs. Training, lectures, exhibits and vendors will be available. This is an excellent opportunity for networking, and expanding your Council programs.

### Competitive Shooting Programs

The NRA Competitive Shooting Programs offer formal competition for Scouts BSA and Venturing. Every year Council Resident Camps have NRA Postal Matches operating for rimfire or air rifle. Venturing crews may compete in Postal Matches during with winter and spring months in a wide variety of shooting sports. Many offer the NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program to Scouts after the Scout completes the merit badge.

There are skeet and trap competitive shooting opportunities that will start youth and young adults on a quest of competitive shooters. Go to [www.competitions.nra.org](http://www.competitions.nra.org) to learn more about the programs.

Not only does the shooter improve his or her capabilities, but they can earn more pins, badges, medals, or certificates. What Scout doesn't want another recognition or achievement award?

### Archery

There exists a wide range of archery shooting sports available to the BSA. BSA Archery Merit Badge, archery competition, field archery, or sporting arrows. In some Resident Camps archery is becoming a forgotten or neglected sport. The breadth of activities that can be offered by a Council is immense and the investment very small. Sporting Arrows is often looked on as Archery Skeet. You can obtain the equipment through the FNRA Grants.

### Age Appropriate Activities

The BSA has published the document #680-685, that clearly defines the activities that each program's youth may participate in. Similar information is listed in the Guide to Safe Scouting, and the BSA Shooting Sports Manuals. There isn't any interpretation or “close enough”. Allowing participation of youth that doesn't meet the BSA requirements is not permitted under any circumstance.



## Private or Public Property Ranges

Formal approval must be obtained to use any public or private property for a shooting sports range for all BSA programs except Cub Scout BB Gun Ranges. The worksheet (BSA Document #430-065) for obtaining the approval is found on shooting sports webpage on [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org) All requirements are listed on this document and must be submitted to your Council prior to the event for approval. This is necessary for the safety of the participants, risk & liability.

*Ralph Schuster*, Central Region Shooting Sports Chair

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## TOP 10 MERIT BADGES FOR 2018

	Merit Badge	2018 earned
1	First Aid	69,565
2	Swimming	62,796
3	Citizenship in the World	55,843
4	Environmental Science	54,237
5	Citizenship in the Nation	52,944
6	Communication	51,541
7	Cooking	50,185
8	Camping	49,893
9	Citizenship in the Community	49,863
10	Personal Fitness	49,600



## ANNIE OAKLEY



The Boy Scouts of America and Scouting Shooting Sports have had a long relationship. The Archery and Marksmanship Merit Badges are two of the original fifty-seven merit badges published in the Official Handbook for Boys, in 1911. The Marksmanship Merit Badge eventually became the Rifle Shooting Merit Badge and Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge of today. Additionally, the Shooting Sports Merit Badges have consistently been one of the most popular non-Eagle required Merit Badges earned annually. Whether it be Cub Scout Day Camp, or Cub or Scout Resident Camp, Shooting Sports are always one of the most popular program areas.

With the addition of young women into the Scouts B.S.A. program this year and the inclusion of females into the Cub Scout Program in 2018, the Blackhawk Area Council, Rockford, Illinois, is hosting the inaugural Annie Oakley Club Shooting Sports Event at Camp Lowden

in Oregon, Illinois, on May 3rd and 4th, 2019.

The purpose of this "female only" event is to introduce female Cub Scouts, Scouts B.S.A., Venturing youth, and adult leaders, to firing range procedures, gun handling safety, and some good old fun shooting on the range. All attendees must be currently registered with the Boy Scouts of America.

The Scouts B.S.A., Venturing, and Adult program will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 3rd and 4th, 2019. Attendees can check-in between 6:00--8:00 PM on Friday evening. Friday evening's program will feature firearm safety and familiarizing attendees with the firearms to be used, along with range safety rules. Saturday's program at the range will provide attendees the opportunity to fire BB guns, .22 Cal. rifles, 12- and 20-gauge shotguns, handguns, and .50 Cal. black powder muzzleloader rifles. Attendees should bring sleeping gear, personal gear, water bottle, daypack, along with B.S.A. Healthform Parts A and B. The fee is \$75.00 per person. The fee includes overnight lodging in the Boeger Leadership Lodge, Friday evening cracker barrel, Saturday breakfast and lunch, ammunition, patch and certificate.

The Cub Scout Program is Saturday, May 4th, beginning at 10:00 AM, and will provide instruction and shooting in archery and BB Guns. The fee is \$20.00 per Cub Scout and includes lunch, patch, and certificate. For adults attending with the Cub Scouts, the cost for lunch is \$5.00. Attendees should bring their own water bottles.

Both programs will conclude by 5:00 PM on Saturday. Registration is limited, and no walk-ins will be accepted. Registration deadline is April 15th.

Register at: [blackhawkscouting.org/annieoakley2019](http://blackhawkscouting.org/annieoakley2019)

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# MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM TO PLAY IN 'SCOUT UNIFORM' JERSEYS

March 25, 2019 [Bryan Wendell Eagle Scout](#), [Fun](#), [Scouting in the News](#), [Uniforms](#) 34 Comments



Mid-Iowa Council Scout Executive Matt Hill shows off the uniform.

Here's my Scouting report on the Iowa Cubs: They're looking pretty good this season.

The Triple-A affiliate of the Chicago Cubs has unveiled the special Scouting-themed jersey the team will wear on Scout Day this season. All proceeds from jersey sales will benefit local Scouting.

The khaki-colored button-ups look just like the Scout uniform, and the designs were approved by the Boy Scouts of America. The players will don them during Scout Day, scheduled for the team's April 28 game against the Nashville Sounds.

If you ask me, the Iowa Cubs really hit this one out of the park.

The design includes a Mid-Iowa Council shoulder patch on the left sleeve, green loops on each shoulder and a realistic-looking Eagle Scout medal on the left pocket. The addition of shadows makes everything look 3D, but the design is totally flat. Good thing, because dangling medals and swinging neckerchief slides might make it tough to turn that 6-4-3 double play.



During the game, the team will auction off all 30 jerseys. Proceeds benefit the Mid-Iowa Council's efforts to serve more families through Scouting. Winning bidders can meet the player who wore the jersey and get him to sign it after the game.

It's all part of [Scout Day at the Iowa Cubs](#).

In addition to seeing the players' special uniforms, Scouts get discounted tickets, a commemorative patch and a chance to participate in the pregame parade on the field.

## GET YOUR TOP 10 QUESTIONS ABOUT SCOUTS BSA ANSWERED HERE



*Scouts BSA Troop 8222 of the California Inland Empire Council.*

There's enthusiasm for the launch of Scouts BSA everywhere you look. You see it on social media, where young people are saying, #ScoutMeIn. You see it on the news as reporters highlight the BSA's commitment to the whole family. And you see it in **all 50 states**, with new Scouts BSA troops for girls forming from coast to coast.

As with anything new, there's bound to be some questions. The BSA has covered almost all of them on **the Family Scouting page** (look for the link marked "FAQ").

But today I thought I'd extract the top 10 questions I've seen from parents and volunteers. Here we go.

### **1. Are all BSA programs now co-ed?**

While it's true that all BSA programs now welcome both boys/young men and girls/young women, it's not accurate to call every program co-ed.

Let's review the structure of each program:

- **Cub Scouts (ages 5 to 10):** Dens are either all-boy or all-girl. Packs come in three varieties: only all-boy dens, only all-girl dens, or a mix of all-boy dens and all-girl dens.
- **Scouts BSA (ages 11 to 17):** Troops are either all-boy or all-girl. Linked troops are an option (see question 3, below).
- **Venturing (ages 14 to 20, or 13 and completed eighth grade):** Crews are co-ed.
- **Sea Scouts (ages 14 to 20, or 13 and completed eighth grade):** Ships are co-ed.
- **Exploring (ages 10 to 20):** Clubs and posts are co-ed.

## **2. Why did the BSA decide to welcome girls into Scouts BSA?**

Simply put, because girls and their parents asked.

We heard anecdotes of girls wanting to go camping, earn merit badges and become Eagle Scouts like their brothers, dads or grandfathers.

Those stories were then confirmed by national surveys. The BSA asked girls ages 11 to 17 whether they're interested in joining BSA programs. Some 90 percent said yes.

The BSA then asked parents whether they're interested in a program like Boy Scouts for their daughter. Yes, 87 percent said.

Convenience likely plays a big factor in that response from parents. Families are pulled in a million directions these days, so the BSA designed its programs to better fit into busy lives.

## **3. How does a “linked” troop work in Scouts BSA?**

Linked troops are two troops — one for boys and one for girls — that share a chartered organization and may share some or all of the troop committee.

The approach preserves the single-gender troop model while making things more convenient for families.

Linked troops could meet in the same location on the same night. The troop for boys might meet in one room, while the troop for girls meets in another.

Linked troops can share troop numbers, too. Councils have the ability to differentiate an all-boy troop from an all-girl troop in their records.

## **4. What is the organization's name?**

The organization is still called the Boy Scouts of America.

The BSA is composed of several programs, including Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA (formerly known as Boy Scouts), Venturing, Sea Scouts, Exploring and STEM Scouts.

## **5. What do we call a youth member of Scouts BSA?**

We'll call them Scouts, just like today. The term “Scouts BSA members” works fine, too.

Some examples:

- “I'm a Scout in Troop 123.”
- “This is my last year in Cub Scouts. Next year, I'll be in Scouts BSA.”
- “OK, Scouts, it's time to elect your senior patrol leader.”
- “The event will be open to Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA members, Venturers and Sea Scouts.”

## 6. Are the requirements the same for boys and girls?

Yes, the requirements in all programs are the same for boys and girls.

The BSA, after consulting with Scout volunteers and education experts, confirmed that its existing programs are relevant for young men *and* young women.

Think about the 12 core elements of Scouting enshrined in the Scout Law. Those are things young men *and* young women should aspire to be: trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

As a result, every requirement in Scouting — from Lion to Arrow of Light, Scout to Eagle Scout, the Venturing Award to the Summit Award — is the same for everyone.

## 7. Why not keep Boy Scouting and introduce a separate program for girls?

Different program names might lead someone to believe there are different requirements for each program.

Because all single-gender troops will run the same Scouting program, earn the same merit badges and achieve the same ranks, one program name made the most sense.

## 8. Why have two separate versions of the *Scouts BSA Handbook*?

The volunteer-led board of directors wanted to ensure Scouts can see themselves represented accurately in the pages, and having two handbooks was the most effective way to do that.

The photos reflect the troop of which the Scout is a member. In other words, boys will see images of other boys in the *Scouts BSA Handbook for Boys*; girls will see images of other girls in the *Scouts BSA Handbook for Girls*.

When comparing the two, you'll see the content, requirements and page numbers are exactly the same. All that's different is the photos.

For more, read [this post](#) from last month (scroll to the handbook section).

## 9. Are there two separate versions of the Scouts BSA uniform?

When you go to your favorite department store to buy a T-shirt or jeans, you find separate fits, styles and sizes for men/boys and women/girls.

The Scouts BSA uniform is no different. While the fit and styling may be different, the uniforms will remain fundamentally the same.

The Scouts BSA shirt is tan and features a BSA fleur-de-lis emblem and the letters "BSA" in red over the right pocket. It's available in sizes for girls and women now, and will be available for boys and men once

the existing inventory of tan shirts, with “BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA” in red over the right pocket, is sold out. Both are approved for wear in perpetuity.

## **10. What are the Scouts BSA adult leadership requirements?**

Effective, Oct. 1, 2018, two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities, including meetings. This is a change from the previous policy where one leader could be 21 years of age or older with a second leader who could be 18 years of age or older.

**For Scouts BSA troops for girls**, these are the leadership rules:

- Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities, including meetings.
- Volunteers may be all female or a combination of male and female, but at least two volunteers must be 21 years of age or over and at least one must be female.
- There must be a registered female adult leader over 21 in every unit that is serving females.
- A registered female adult leader over 21 must be present for any activity involving female youth. Notwithstanding the minimum leader requirements, age- and program-appropriate supervision must always be provided.

**For Scouts BSA troops for boys**, these are the leadership rules:

- Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities, including meetings.
- Volunteers may be all male, all female, or a combination of male and female, but at least two volunteers must be 21 years of age or over.
- Notwithstanding the minimum leader requirements, age- and program-appropriate supervision must always be provided.

**BRYAN ON SCOUTING**

A Blog for the BSA's Adult Leaders

February 13, 2019

## MEET THE CROPS TEAM!

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## CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Aaron Randolph [aranjr@mcschi.com](mailto:aranjr@mcschi.com)

Greetings Campers!

In my last column I mentioned the two Central Region Outdoor Conferences we were preparing to hold in late January. We ended up with great attendance at both events in spite of the snow and cold that chased us all winter long. Over 80 people attended each event, and we heard from some of the most motivated and inspirational Scout leaders from both the National Office and the Central Region. One of the special focuses this year was a session targeted on instructing camp directors and local council staff on how to complete the Authorization to Operate paperwork. Another session targeted the Continuous Camp Improvement Plan. If you have a special topic related to outdoor program you want us to feature next year, please let us know soon. Work will begin shortly for the January 2020 conferences. Mark your calendar now to attend Saturday, January 18, in Des Moines, or one week later on Saturday, January 25, in Indianapolis.

Speaking of conferences, sign up today to attend the BSA National Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. Dates are Thursday, May 29 and Friday, May 30. Your local council Scout Office will have details on how to register. The meetings are top quality, the special programs are even better, and the opportunity to reconnect with Scouters from around the country is hard to beat.

One of the highlights is the Central Region lunch, during which the following Scouters will be presented the Silver Antelope:

Area 1 - Bruce Williams and Greg Nygren

Area 2 - Ed Basar and John Savage

Area 3 - Amanda Vogt

Area 4 - Ray Bartlett and Art King

Area 6 - Kurt Brookhart.

Congratulations to each of you, and thank you for your dedicated leadership to the young people of the Central Region.

And finally, it's still not too late to be a part of the 24<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree this summer. The BSA is co-hosting, and in order to run the event we'd love to have more staff. Take a few minutes to visit the Jamboree site at <https://wsj2019.us/> There are still openings in program areas, trading post and on the International Service Team. I hope to see many of you there.

YITSOG

**(Yours In The Spirit Of Gilwell)**

**Aaron Randolph**

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