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.

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BSA Lifeguard course offered prior to attending National Camp School

As a prerequisite for candidates attending National Camp School, the Aquatics Section requires candidates to have current lifeguard certification with BSA Lifeguard, American Red Cross Lifeguard Training or equivalent. We are offering an opportunity for councils to send their candidates for BSA Lifeguard training immediately prior to attending the Aquatics Section at National Camp School. This 3-day course will cover all the requirements needed for BSA Lifeguard. If the candidate successfully completes the BSA Lifeguard course, they will be allowed to enroll for National Camp School, Aquatics Section. For those candidates that do not pass BSA Lifeguard, they will not be allowed to enroll for National Camp School, Aquatics Section. Please see the prerequisites for both BSA Lifeguard and National Camp School, Aquatics Section below.

**BSA Lifeguard Course Details**
Date: Tuesday, May 19, 7-9pm Check in  
Class: Wednesday, May 20 to Friday, May 22  
Location: Camp Tesomas, Rhinelander, WI  
Cost: **$250.00**
Submit payment to Samoset Council  
Fee includes training, lodging and food  
For additional information, contact Tom Burke at tdburke5@gmail.com  
Register for the BSA Lifeguard course online: [http://www.samoset.org/event/bsa-lifeguard-2020](http://www.samoset.org/event/bsa-lifeguard-2020)

**National Camp School Details**
Date: Saturday, May 23 to Friday, May 29  
Location: Camp Tesomas, Rhinelander, WI  
Cost: **$610.00**
Submit payment to Samoset Council  
Fee includes training, lodging and food  
For additional information, please contact Scott Domino at scott.domino@samoset.org
BSA National Aquatics Conference
September 30 - October 4, 2020
The Summit Bechtel Reserve
Save the Date!

September 30 – October 4, 2020

2020 BSA National Aquatics Conference

The Summit Bechtel Reserve - 2550 Jack Furst Dr. - Glen Jean, WV 25846

Come to share ideas, best practices and fellowship. Grow your council Aquatic Leadership. See the newest ideas in aquatics program and equipment. The conference is especially well-suited for council program directors, council aquatic committee members, camp aquatic directors and National Camping School staff members.

The BSA National Aquatics Conference begins with dinner on Wednesday, Sept. 30, and concludes after breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 4.

Some of the topics to be covered include: the Model Aquatic Health Code updates and its impact on BSA aquatics, Cub Scout aquatics, American Canoe Association and American Red Cross updates, Innovative council aquatic programs, build your council aquatics leadership, aquatics merit badges, where to find new financial resources and grants, regional breakouts, BSA Lifeguard feedback, National Camping School feedback, and a local council sharing session.

Several certification opportunities during the workshop are in early planning. Agenda, session details and any added costs for specific certifications or recreational opportunities will be sent out in early 2020.

The conference fee, which will be finalized when registration opens, includes meals, dormitory housing, and course materials.

There will be a vendor fair with information and demonstrations of high-interest aquatics products and services.

A half-day of Whitewater rafting, Ziplining or Canopy tours is included in the conference fee.

Yeager Airport in Charleston WV is the closest airport serving major airlines. It is an hour northwest of SBR. The Charlotte NC airport is a 3.5-hour drive to the SEn all freeways. You are on your own for arranging transportation to the Summit. Shuttle services are not available, but a list of participants will be provided for carpooling.

This is a first-come, first-served event with participation limited to the first 150 registrants.

Registration opens in early 2020.
The deadline to register is August 31, 2020.
2020 Silver Antelopes

Created in 1942, the Silver Antelope Award is awarded to those persons who give extraordinary leadership in distinguished service to youth. This award recognizes registered Scouters for their noteworthy service of exceptional character provided within the region’s territory.

The following Scouters will be recognized at the Central Region Recognition Luncheon at the National annual Meeting in May:

Donald Everhart  
Simon Kenton Council

Robert Hisey  
Tecumseh Council

Jason Kasiorek  
President Ford Service Council

John Pabrocki  
Samoset Council

David Savonne  
Blackhawk Area Council

Joe Shore  
La Salle Council

Michael Weber  
Michigan Crossroads

Brent Worely  
Heart of America Council

Congratulations to the 2020 Central Region Silver Antelopes.

2020 Central Region Silver Buffaloes

The Silver Buffalo Award is the national level distinguished service award. It is presented for noteworthy and extraordinary service to youth on a national basis.

Two Scouters from the Central Region will be honored with the Silver Buffalo award at the National Annual Meeting in May. Congratulations to:

Scott Beckett  
Northern Star Council

Ned Gold  
Great Trail Council
COPE/Climbing

After 15 years on the COPE/Climbing Subcommittee, Todd Whitely has decided to step down as a member of the subcommittee. He has been a valuable member, and has made significant contributions to the work of the subcommittee. Those include serving as the Regional Chair for many years, developing several processing aids, and writing curriculum and sections of Belay On. He was also instrumental in the development of policies and procedures which made the COPE/Climbing program safer.

While he is stepping down from the subcommittee, he is not retiring from Scouting. He will be working with his daughter as she progresses through Cub Scouts and into Scouting.

Please extend a big thank you to Todd for his 15 years of service to the COPE/Climbing community.

Replacing Todd on the Subcommittee will be Rich Diesslin from Tecumseh Council, Springfield OH. Rich has been involved with COPE/Climbing since 2006 and has served in various capacities, both at the council and regional level, as well as serving on NCS staff. He has been active in scouting for over 30 years, is an Eagle Scout and was awarded the Silver Beaver in 2014. Many of us may know Rich for his monthly scout cartoon called KNOTS or Not.

Please extend a big welcome to Rich as he joins the COPE/Climbing Subcommittee.

COPE/Climbing Program Trainer Course – Update

At the Subcommittee meeting on March 14, a framework for the course curriculum was accepted for additional beta testing. At the end of April, the Northeast Region will be offering a course using this curriculum. Following feedback, a final curriculum will be developed and submitted for approval.

I will be working with the area advocates to schedule Program Trainer courses in the fall. As developed, the Program Trainer Course will be more rigorous that the former PM courses they are replacing.

Acceptance into the course will require the following pre-requisites:

- NCS COPE or Climbing Directors Card. Level 1 or 2 trained individuals will not be allowed to register
- You will need approval from your Scout Executive
- You will need to submit a portfolio documenting a minimum of 50 hours of face to face facilitation/instruction of which no more than 5 hours can be administrative time. The 50 hours excludes breaks and meals. Facilitation and/or instruction at NCS director level, or as a Level II or Level I instructor can be applied towards the 50 hours.
Given these pre-requisites, if you want to attend the Program Trainer Course, I encourage you to spend the summer working on them. If you do not have an NCS C/C card you may want to consider enrolling in COPE or Climbing during one of the National Camp Schools being offered this spring.

*John Harrits*
Central Region Chair – COPE and Climbing

**Outdoor Adventure**

Our mission to develop the leaders of tomorrow has remained the same for the last 110 years. There are big changes happening in our organization, but NO changes in our mission. Outdoor Adventures is one of the more visible tools we use to assist us in that mission. Getting our youth off the couch and into the outdoors exposes them to the challenges of the greater world around them.

Our work is a fundamental part of enabling that component of our mission. We have committed ourselves to providing the strongest, most engaging program coupled with the safest and most capable facilities available to any youth serving organization in our Region. Our focus on our responsibilities and the strength of our team will lead us to increasingly higher levels of service to the youth we serve.

Thank you for all you’re doing to build character and leadership skills in America’s youth.

*Dan Hunt*
VP-Outdoor Adventures
Conservation Report

Happy Spring from the CR Conservation Team!

Thank you to everyone that attended the Winter Outdoor Program Conferences in Des Moines on January 18th and Indianapolis on January 25th. We hope you found the presentations to be educational and inspirational. If there is any information you would like from those presentations, please don’t hesitate to ask. If you missed them this year, we hope to see you next year!

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 this link: https://bit.ly/2QrbHRv

If you are looking for a one stop spot for all things Conservation and Hornaday Awards, check out our website here: https://wthornadayawardprogramadvisors.wildapricot.org/

We are in the final stages of putting together a Hornaday Award Adviser training course for the Central Region in the Fall of 2020. We will keep you posted!

The role of conservation in the BSA will continue to be well represented at upcoming national events. The National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) will have an area called the Arrowman for Conservation, Education, and Sustainability (ACES). This will include an Arrowman Conservation School and local conservation project! A new integrated conservation program is currently in the works for the 2021 National Scout Jamboree. It’s bound to be a mountaintop experience!

Spending time outdoors is a great way to practice proper social distance. Get outside and enjoy the Spring season! I leave you with this quote:

“So get out there and hunt and fish and mess around with your friends, ramble out yonder and explore the forests, climb the mountains, bag the peaks, run the rivers, breathe deep of that yet sweet and lucid air, sit quietly for a while and contemplate the precious stillness, the lovely, mysterious, and awesome space.” — Edward Abbey

See you all further down the Scouting trail.

Ted Weiland
Central Region Lead Conservation and Hornaday Awards
Changes in the CROPS Team

We reluctantly say good-bye and good luck to David Truax, who has been the professional advisor to the CROPS Team for the last several years. David has decided to retire. We wish him the best, and hope we see him somewhere down the Scouting Trail. Thanks, David, for all your hard work behind the scenes to make things run smoothly for the CROPS Team!

We welcome Mike McCarthy to the team as our new professional advisor. Mike is currently the Central Region Area 3 Director.

2019 Eagle class largest in BSA history

More young people became Eagle Scouts in 2019 than in any other year in the 108-year history of the prestigious award.

Exactly 61,353 young men earned the Eagle Scout award last year, beating the previous record of 58,659 set in 2012, the 100-year anniversary of the award first being presented.

A total of 10,913 Eagles were awarded in the Central Region in 2019.

It’s worth noting that this is the last year I’ll be able to type “young men” when referring to the newest Eagle Scout class.

The BSA will honor the inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts in late 2020. This class is open to any young woman who passes her board of review between October 1 and October 31, 2020, and has submitted her postmarked Eagle application to the National Office no later than November 2, 2020.

Eagle Scouts, and the volunteers they led, completed 8,575,780 hours of work for Eagle Scout service projects in 2019. (The real number is likely even higher.)

That works out to 139.8 hours per project.

At the 2019 value of volunteer rate of $25.43 per hour, that equals a staggering $218.1 million worth of service to communities.

As many city governments are forced to trim their budgets each year, Scouting often fills in the gaps through acts of service.

Brian Waddel
2021 National Jamboree Update

Do you and 30,000 of your closest friends have any plans for July 21 – 30 in 2021? In case you haven’t heard, there’s going to be a campout in West Virginia and you’re all invited!

Our initial commitments from councils throughout the Central Region have been good, but we still have room for more. All Central Region units will be housed in Basecamp Bravo. The big difference for this Jamboree is Bravo will be home to BSA girl troops, boy troops, Venture Crews (single gender as well as co-ed) and co-ed International units. At past Jamborees all co-ed units and all Venture Crews were housed in Basecamp Foxtrot.

If you are not going to be part of your council contingent, then please consider joining the Jamboree Service Team. A camp with 24,000 participants needs at least 6,000 Scouters on the Service Team to make things run. Every job you find in a city of 30,000 will be needed at the Jamboree, whether it’s working in the trading post, overseeing the rifle range, operating a zip line, preparing meals, etc. Every skill you use at work or at home or at your local Scout camp will be needed somewhere at the Jamboree. And the best part is all the jobs pay the same! You get to spend 2 weeks living and playing together with the most energetic and engaged people on the planet! If you can’t join the fun, but know of another Scouter who might, please pass along this information.

If you haven’t signed up for the Service Team yet, there’s one other enticement guaranteed to excite Scouters everywhere: The first 2,021 Scouters who sign up for the Service Team will receive this patch:

Complete details about the Jamboree and the Service Team are at: https://jamboree.scouting.org/
Don’t delay – get your Service Team patch today!

Aaron Randolph
Central Region Chair
2021 National Jamboree
Significant Changes to Camps and Properties impacted by the National Camp Accreditation Program (NCAP)

Several new standards have been added to the NCAP Standards (430-056-2) released on Jan 1, 2020. The biggest change is Standards Applicability (SA) section which adds six new standards designed to apply NCAP standards to any BSA-branded camp property or camp. All camp properties and camps, regardless of type, must comply with the standards applicable to the facilities and programs offered. Camp length offerings are being standardized, and the term “Family Camps” will be redefined as “Short Term Camps” effective Jan 1, 2021.

Along with SA-001, SA-002 states: “No camp property or long-term camp shall operate without a current Authorization to Operate as provided by these standards. No day camp or family camp shall operate without a current Authorization to Operate and current council program site approval. Camps shall operate only at approved locations.” SA-003 requires all Camp and Camp properties to be assessed in accordance with national standards.

As we can see, the intent here is to bring all BSA branded camping programs under the oversight of NCAP. While this may not be popular, this action is meant to protect the BSA brand and ensure we offer quality, safe, mountain top experiences to our scouting youth.

For more information on NCAP accreditation, you can contact Bob Hemmerly at MSgtBobH@gmail.com
For assessment information, you can contact Jason Kasiorek at jkasiorek@comcast.net or your Area Assessment Chair.

Bob Hemmerly
NCAP Accreditation Chairman

Assessor Training
All face-to-face assessor training has been postponed. The regional and national assessment teams are working on developing alternate ways to deliver the training.
2020 Winter Outdoor Conferences.

The CROPS team hosted two Outdoor Program Conferences again this year in Des Moines and Indianapolis.

The Iowa weather once again presented some challenges, but we had over 50 Scouters from around the region attend. Thanks again to Mid-Iowa Council for hosting us at the Maytag Center.

There were nearly 100 people at Camp Belzar this year. Thanks again to Crossroads of America for hosting the conference.

Start making plans to attend in 2021 in Des Moines, the 2nd weekend of January and in Indianapolis the 3rd weekend. This is an outstanding opportunity to hear from regional and national volunteers and professionals on the latest and greatest in Outdoor Adventures. Put together a carload or two from your council and join us for a great day of fellowship, networking and learning. We would love to see attendance continue to grow at each conference. Help us reach 150 at each conference!

Finally, a big thanks to all the presenters for your time and effort to make this a big success.

Dan Gille

Central Region Property Evaluation Team

In 2019, a team of volunteer Scouters from every Area of the Central Region was assembled to become members of the first Property Evaluation Team. This team has been assembled to work with the Outdoor Program / Properties Team from the National Council to provide Councils within the Central Region with an unbiased evaluation of their property or properties with the goal of assisting the Council to reach a sustainable year-round camping operation. The National Council is limited in the resources that are available to assist with this function, so this team has been created to assist in providing this service. This team currently consists of 28 members who will be assigned in small groups as requested by the Councils. Members of the team have already had two orientation opportunities that have been created to insure consistency in their evaluations. This orientation will be complemented with on-hands experiences as requests are received.

The team has four fundamental objectives:

- Serve as a resource to assist the local council executive boards in objectively reviewing the council’s property or properties as part of an Outdoor Adventure strategic plan.
Specifically identify challenges, opportunities, weaknesses and threats for council properties.

Provide recommendation for value of properties with consideration for the local council’s Outdoor Adventure Program needs.

Serve as a supplement to resources provided by the National Council Outdoor Program/Properties Team and the Outdoor Program Camp Assessment/Strategic Analysis Sub Committee

Any Council wishing to take advantage of this resource can do so by having the Council Key 3 submit a written request to their Area Director. The requests will be addressed in the order they are received.

The team looks forward to being a valuable resource to the Councils of the Central Region!

Curtis Brookhart
Chairman

MEET THE CROPS TEAM!

Chair ......................... Daniel Gille       dcgille@gmail.com
Assistant Chair ................. Marv Wilson       marv.wilson@outlook.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
Professional Staff Advisor .......... Mike McCarthy    mike.mccarthy@scouting.org
The last few months have presented some serious challenges to the Scouting Movement.

The announcement of the bankruptcy from the BSA was not a big surprise. It has been developing for quite a while, and represents the best way for the organization to deal with ongoing lawsuits. It gives the national organization an opportunity to fairly deal with the victims of sexual abuse. It is also an opportunity for Scouting to create a plan for the future. At the end of the day, it does not have a significant impact on what we do as volunteers in Scouting.

Scouting at the unit and council level remains the same. Scouts are still learning the skills that will help them develop leadership and ethical decision making. The Scout Oath and Law remain the same. Scouts will still be exploring all the Outdoor Adventures the CROPS Team supports.

Our job is to keep doing our job - - helping units and councils offer the best possible experience for the thousands of youth we serve in the Central Region.

We also are facing the unpredictable effects of Covid-19. No one can predict what effects the virus will have on our communities. It has impacted Scouting through closures and cancellations. We all need to Do Our Best and Be Prepared. The health of our families and communities are the biggest priority now.

Stay safe & stay healthy.

Yours in Scouting,

Dan Gille
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dcgille@gmail.com