Changes to NCAP Starting in 2020

The National Camp Accreditation Program (NCAP) will undergo several changes for the 2020 season. Every year the NCAP Committee reviews the standards and the NCAP process to make certain that the Boy Scouts of America camps are maintaining the highest level of safety and the quality of programs that every participant deserves and desires. Changes to and standard will be announced soon.

The biggest change in 2020 provides an opportunity to streamline the process by reducing and consolidating the number of camp type classifications. These adjustments will increase quality program and the health and safety of all campers while enhancing brand of the Boy Scouts of America. The new classifications are:

**Camp Property:** A camp property includes any and all properties which a BSA council exercises long-term control that is made available to BSA units or individuals for use in BSA-branded program activities.

**Day Camp:** A day camp is a council-organized program designed for Scouts for two or more days, under council-retained leadership, at an approved site with no overnight. The program may operate at the Tiger Scout, Cub Scout, Webelos Scout, Scouts BSA, Venturer, or Sea Scout level.

**Family Camp:** A family camp is a one time, council-approved one or two night camp at an approved site for Tiger Scouts, Cub Scouts and/or Webelos Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers and Sea Scouts and their families and that involve more than one unit where the council, or its agents, provides the staffing and may provide program and food service.

**Long-Term Camp (formerly resident camp):** A council-organized camp that is three nights or more that operates under council-retained leadership and can include static campsites, transient camp sites, high adventure or trekking programs or some combination thereof. These programs may operate at the Tiger Scout, Cub Scout, Webelos Scout, Scouts BSA, or Venturer level; but, Cub Scout, Scouts BSA and Venturing programs cannot be combined into a single camp experience.

Regardless of which classification a camp falls under, all program standards apply to the programs they offer including aquatics, shooting sports, COPE, Trek etc. For example, if a camp hosts a COPE program at their facility but no overnight camping takes place, they would follow the applicable properties standards and the COPE standards. Or for example, if they offer overnight trekking programs, the camp would follow the long-term camp standards and the trek standards.

For more information on these, and other changes in 2020 go to [www.scouting.org/ncap](http://www.scouting.org/ncap)
Since the inception of the National Camp Accreditation Program, the intent was to have continuous improvement in five major areas of our camps and properties: 1). our facilities; 2). our staff; 3). our programs; 4). our equipment; and 5). our sustainability into the future. With our camp properties being most Council’s biggest asset and in some cases their biggest liability, it was important to understand how our facilities measured up, our staff, programs, and equipment supported the participants and to make sure that our Councils understood the true costs of our camping programs and that they had a plan to improve and sustain their assets into the future.

Over the first few years, NCAP looked at those properties that supported long term summer and winter camps, plus high adventure, but next year we are asking out Councils to review all of their properties. The standards and the BSA brand always apply to where camping and programs are carried out, and properties that must be self-assessed are a great opportunity for councils to ensure all of their camps and programs meet and exceed the BSA brand. Many improvements, self awareness and tough choices where made over the last few years, so this expansion of reviewing all of our properties will only make us better. I look forward to the next step in making progress for this generation of Scouts and the generations that follow.

Mark Rose

Thanks to everyone who attended the National Outdoor Conference at Philmont last month! A recap of the conference facts: 370 participants, 120 electives, 40 exhibitors, a huge food show, seven preconference sessions, great general sessions by Dr. Deborah Gilboa, Tom Rosenberg and Chief Scout Executive Michael Surbaugh as just a few of the highlights. For a photo tour of the entire conference, click here

A special thank you to the conference’s title sponsor, Diamond Brand Gear for providing unique souvenir messenger bags, computer sleeves and lunch bags made from – you guessed it – tent canvas! Also, a tip of the hat to the many elective facilitators for delivering the most diverse menu of topics ever offered at the National Outdoor Conference. Watch for “save the date” information early next year for the 2021 conference!

Frank Reigelman
How About the Summit For Your Next Conference?

Thanks to the addition of six new buildings, the Summit is ready to handle your Council’s conferencing and meeting needs in a unique and fun setting.

Check out the list below on facilities and our special “Scout Rental Rate”.

Thomas G. Pigott and Eagles Nest Lodge Bunkhouse: 36 rooms per bunkhouse / $50 per room per night (Linen Service Provided)

- Rex W. Tillerson Leadership Center: Six large classrooms that can accommodate 40 participants / $50 per room per day; Leadership Hall that can accommodate 160 participants / $125 per day. Rental of the entire Tillerson Leadership Center is $350 per day. Full catering and AV services available

Opening January 2020: J.W. Marriott Jr. Leadership Center & Gene H. Yamagata Hall: A premiere conferencing and housing facility located on a scenic overlook of the Summit Center. The conference center can accommodate groups of up to 300 with multiple breakout rooms / $50 per room per day; 300 seat auditorium / $200 per day, and 300 seat dining area with full kitchen. Yamagata Hall offers 32 double rooms and 8 single rooms all with private bathrooms / $80 per room per night. (Linen Service Provided)

In addition to this and other great meeting space, the Summit also offers world class high adventure activities including: Zip Lining; Canopy Tours; BMX and Skate Board Track, Mountain Biking, ATV rides, Full Shooting Sports Complex, Rock Climbing and Repelling and White Water rafting.

The Summit staff will ensure a quality experience for your conference. For more information on options and pricing
NEW!—This new resource, the Outdoor Programs and Properties Manual, which replaces the Camp Program and Properties Management guide, is now available online at https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/. In addition to valuable information on outdoor program operations, councils can access links to many useful tools and sites to aid in developing their camp and outdoor program activities and facilities.

Workplace Groups for Outdoor Programs

Have you joined a Workplace (Facebook for the office) group? Here are links to several “open” groups that support outdoor programs throughout the BSA:

- Outdoor Programs (over 1,300 members and growing!)
- Fiix Users Group - learn best practices and ask questions about how to optimize the Fiix program in your camp.
- BSA Rangers - an open group with information for Rangers.
- Environmental, Health and Safety—regular postings about safety.

2020 BSA Ammo Program

Coming Soon!

The BSA partnership with Vista Outdoors and Federal Premium Ammunition will open January 1, 2020 and run through February 29, 2020. Watch for the official announcement in December.
Scouting’s Outdoor Adventure Resources

Outdoor Adventure is the key to Scouting’s success for more than 100 years. The founder unlocked the imagination of young people through emersion in the outdoors. Everything from self-esteem, skills, leadership, teamwork and service is achieved through outdoor activity. The National Camping Subcommittee dedicates its efforts to providing resources to Scouters that support every element of Outdoor Adventures.

Let us be reminded that Scouting’s Market Place doubled on February 1, 2019. The Total Available Youth across America is now 49 million. Girls joining the movement could potentially double the membership in 24 months. Girls are excited about Outdoor Adventure and Scouts BSA invites to ALL levels of activity. Notably 110,000 girls have registered to date, including Lion Cubs through Scouts BSA to Venturing, Exploring and Sea Scouting. We now serve EVERYONE! And to enable leaders to most effectively present the Outdoor Skills to members, please review the numerous 1-2 minute video demonstrations provided by the Media Resources team, found at https://troopresources.scouting.org/how-to-campcraft-skill-videos/.

You’ll find something for everyone in these tools.

With new members Outstanding Outdoor Adventure has never been more important. The Camping Subcommittee provides the tools and guidelines to Unit leaders, District and Council leaders. The Outdoor Programs Committee Guide is the start for Council and District leaders to deploy all components within the organization to deliver effective and exciting programs. The Guide provides the roadmap that engages every Operating and Support Committee in a holistic manner to create programs to serve all elements of Scouting through focus on Fun, Adventure, Leadership, Skills, Practice, Service, Team Building and Success! Find the Guide at https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Outdoor%20Program/pdf/34786_WB.pdf

The Subcommittee is busy identifying and enabling leaders to become aware of 55 Council provided High Adventure bases and 185 Historic Trails that can help motivate any Scout. The new resource available to leaders is The Adventure Plan (TAP). This resource provides access to every tool and technique available in Scouting for leader use. It is a common resource for Scouters found at https://tap.scouting.org.

The Adventure Plan (TAP) is a tool to guide unit leaders—Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, and Sea Scouts—through all stages of Adventure planning.

Outdoor adventure is a key element of youth development in the Boy Scouts of America programs. Just as young people grow, learn and mature in a continuous progression of experience so, too, do the camping and outdoor programs of the BSA. The BSA offers a continuum of
National Camping School

It is that time to train your staff in BSA programs and activities and National Camping School is a great mechanism to make this training a reality. The 2020 National Camping School brochure can be found on the NCS website at www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/national-camping-school. Make sure to always use the link at this site for the latest information on the school locations and sections offered. In an effort to meet the need for your council, we occasionally make updates and add sections.

In addition to the schedule, you will also find the registration link on the site. Registration will be open to your staff in mid-October and will be accessed from the link on the site. Once registered the Scout Executive will receive an email to authorize the participation of the staff member.

For questions about National Camping School, please email ncs@scouting.org.

Important information about Shooting Sports at NCS

NRA Instructor Course Pre-Requisites: All BSA shooting sports candidates MUST take a basic student class in their discipline before attending the instructor class. Therefore, before you can attend and be certified as a NRA Rifle and Shotgun instructor, you MUST already have taken and passed NRA Basic Rifle and Shotgun classes. The BSA and NRA offer these courses at discounted prices across the country or you can attend any commercial NRA Basic Rifle and Shotgun classes. To find a Basic Rifle and/or Shotgun course in your area, please visit: www.nrainstructors.org. If you have any questions, please email shootingsports@Scouting.org.

Prior to attending National Camping School participants must complete:

- NRA basic class (in each discipline (Rifle and Shotgun)
- NRA instructor class in each discipline (Rifle and Shotgun) – For a list of NRA Rifle and Shotgun Instructor courses for the BSA click NRA instructor locations for 2020 final (updated 10-28-19)

Philmont Trek Lottery Opens Soon!

The 2021 lottery will be open Tuesday, October 29th through Tuesday December 3rd! This is a unit’s best chance at getting their desired dates for a Philmont Expedition or Cavalcade. Units have the opportunity to select from 12-day, 7-day, cavalcade and new 9-day treks for the 2021 summer. Learn more at www.philmontscoutranch.org/reserve

2020 Philmont Training Center and BSA Family Adventure Camp Schedule Now Available!

Start planning your summer vacation! We are excited to release the 2020 Conference and Adventure Schedule online. Registration will open soon. Highlights include BSA Family Adventure Camp offerings throughout the entire summer, new deluxe tents, and more than 50 courses. Learn more at http://bit.ly/PTCAdventures
### 2020 Resident National Camping School Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>City and State</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida National High Adventure Sea Base</td>
<td>Islamorada, FL</td>
<td>2/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpine Scout Camp</td>
<td>Alpine, NJ</td>
<td>2/29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philmont Scout Ranch</td>
<td>Cimarron, NM</td>
<td>3/29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit Bechtel Reserve</td>
<td>Glen Jean, WV</td>
<td>4/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation (two weekends)</td>
<td>Ashford, CT</td>
<td>4/24 and 5/1 (Friday start)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit Bechtel Reserve</td>
<td>Glen Jean, WV</td>
<td>5/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Roe</td>
<td>Osceola, MO</td>
<td>5/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bartle Scout Reservation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost Pines Scout Reservation</td>
<td>Bastrop, TX</td>
<td>5/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bert Adams Scout Camp</td>
<td>Covington, GA</td>
<td>5/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tesomas Scout Camp</td>
<td>Rhinelander, WI</td>
<td>5/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Raven Knob</td>
<td>Mount Airy, NC</td>
<td>5/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation</td>
<td>Cedar Glen, CA</td>
<td>5/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summit Bechtel Reserve</td>
<td>Glen Jean, WV</td>
<td>5/30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Mountain Scout Camp</td>
<td>Mount Vernon, WA</td>
<td>6/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten Mile River Scout Camps</td>
<td>Narrowsburg, NY</td>
<td>6/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massawepie Scout Camps</td>
<td>Tupper Lake, NY</td>
<td>6/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philmont Scout Ranch</td>
<td>Cimarron, NM</td>
<td>5/30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2020 Cub /Webelos Scout Day Camp Administration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Host Council</th>
<th>Stat e</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camp Pupukea</td>
<td>Aloha Area Council</td>
<td>HI</td>
<td>2/1</td>
<td>2/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp La No Che</td>
<td>Central Florida Council</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>2/8</td>
<td>2/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston area</td>
<td>Sam Houston Area Council</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2/8</td>
<td>2/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Service Center</td>
<td>National Council</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2/22</td>
<td>2/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaumont Scout Reservation</td>
<td>Greater St. Louis Area Council</td>
<td>MO</td>
<td>2/29</td>
<td>3/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Loud Thunder</td>
<td>Illowa Council</td>
<td>IA</td>
<td>3/7</td>
<td>3/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YMCA Camp Weaver</td>
<td>North Carolina (not a council)</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>3/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Rotary</td>
<td>Michigan Crossroads Council</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>3/15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Snyder</td>
<td>National Capital Area Council</td>
<td>VA</td>
<td>3/21</td>
<td>3/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walker Creek Ranch</td>
<td>Marin County Education (not a council)</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>3/21</td>
<td>3/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bert Adams Scout Camp</td>
<td>Atlanta Area Council</td>
<td>GA</td>
<td>3/21</td>
<td>3/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philmont Scout Ranch</td>
<td>National Council</td>
<td>NM</td>
<td>3/21</td>
<td>3/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latimer Scout Reservation</td>
<td>Middle Tennessee Council</td>
<td>TN</td>
<td>3/28</td>
<td>3/29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hubert Eaton Scout Reservation</td>
<td>Greater Los Angeles Area Council</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>3/28</td>
<td>3/29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Service Center</td>
<td>Northern Lights Council</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>3/28</td>
<td>3/29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Naish</td>
<td>Heart of America Council</td>
<td>KS</td>
<td>4/18</td>
<td>4/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Flying Eagle</td>
<td>Southwest Florida Council</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>4/18</td>
<td>4/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed Bryant Scout Reservation</td>
<td>Glacier’s Edge Council</td>
<td>WI</td>
<td>4/18</td>
<td>4/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Rockefeller</td>
<td>Quapaw Area Council</td>
<td>AR</td>
<td>4/25</td>
<td>4/26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Guyasuta</td>
<td>Laurel Highlands Council</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>4/25</td>
<td>4/26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K–H Scout Ranch</td>
<td>Montana Area Council</td>
<td>MT</td>
<td>4/25</td>
<td>4/26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpine Scout Camp</td>
<td>Greater New York Councils</td>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>6/6</td>
<td>6/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center</td>
<td>Orange County Council</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>10/4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Create a Culture of Health at Summer Camp

Because of the Revamp Camp Virtual Network, camps now know how to create healthier cultures in both their dining halls and Trading Posts. Troop leaders and Scouts have also expressed overwhelming support for Summer Camp Revamped. 2019 results include:

- Virtual network sessions are 1-hour weekly calls for 6-7 weeks. These are especially helpful for dining hall and Trading Post managers.

- Virtual networking topics include: dining hall menus, how to prepare healthier foods, how to promote healthier food in the dining hall and Trading Post, healthier Trading Post products, Trading Post pricing, and the Step-Up Challenge. Learn from legacy camps about how they made healthy changes and what an improved dining hall and Trading Post might look like at your camp. Sign up your camp to join Camp Revamped 2020 Virtual Networks (dates and times TBD):

  [http://j.mp/2omtnST](http://j.mp/2omtnST)
Camp Ranger Basic Schedule

- January 19-24, 2020 – Bert Adams Scout Camp, Covington, GA
- February 2-7, 2020 – Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, NM
- March 15-20, 2020 – Yawgoog Scout Reservation, Rockville, RI

Camp Ranger Continuing Education

Attention Camp Rangers—do you still need to obtain Continuing Education Hours (CEH) for 2020?

Locally, Rangers and their supervisor can select any subject deemed important to personal development or for the improving the camp that is comprised of 12 learning-hours. Learning-hours can be any combination of classroom or hands-on activities. Additionally, learning-hours can be mixed and matched between course content.

IMPORTANT REMINDER – The plan requires Ranges to work one-year in advance to satisfy NCAP Standard SQ-404. CEH’s earned in 2019 are applied to the 2020 standards; CEH’s acquired in 2020 satisfy 2012 and so on.

So You Want to Host a CEH Course?

A new application is available for councils that would like to host a CEH course. Click here to download the application. The proposed course must have at least 12 learning hours or instruction and/or hands on training. Send completed applications to: outdoorprograms@scouting.org

Camp Ranger Continuing Education eLearning from Scouting U

Scouting University has four categories of online training. There is no cost to take these courses.

Chemicals
- Compressed Gas Safety
- Chlorine Safety
- Hazardous Material Handling and Storage

Equipment Operations
- Lockout/Tagout
- Aerial Work Platforms
- Trenching and Excavation Safety
- Indoor Hoisting and Rigging
- Welding, Cutting and Brazing

To access these Skillsoft modules, Log into MyBSA

- Resources
  - Scouting University Employee
  - Learn Center
  - Outdoor Programs
  - Ranger Training

Health
- Office Ergonomics
- Heat Stress Recognition and Prevention
- Mold Awareness
- Confined Spaces
- Back Safety and Injury Prevention

Safety
- Hazardous Materials in the Workplace
- Signs and Tags
- Portable Fire Extinguishers
- Scaffolding Safety

Chain Saw Basic

The BSA’s Chain Saw Training (No. 20-136) is being retired and replace with Chain Saw Basic, No. 430-136. Following a pilot at Philmont in September, the training is being fine-tuned and will be released before the end of 2019. Watch the Outdoor Programs webpage and Workplace for an announcement.
Important changes to COPE and Climbing Training

The last COPE and Climbing Sub Committee meeting brought many changes. The Continuing Education recertification for COPE, Climbing and Program Managers National Camping School cards will end in 2019. This program did not always align with the National Camping School syllabus. All recert cards dates will stand that have already been issued.

The Program Manager course also ends at the end of 2019. Current certificates of training will be honored through the expiration date. All courses taught must be registered through the Region Chairs and documented on COPE and Climbing’s documentation system scoutsonrope.org. Regional COPE and Climbing Chairs know how to use this system. Once a few more items are worked out, there will be a ‘how to’ box on COPE and Climbing’s section on scouting.org for how to use this system to track level 1 and 2 classes also. As usual, Level 2 will be a 3-year card and Level 1 will be a 1-year card.

Replacing the Program Managers program, a National Camping School trained Climbing or COPE director can go through a Train the Trainer course, to be named COPE and Climbing Program Trainer Course. All Train the Trainer courses will be registered through National, all will be set up by Region Chairs only, and Level 2s cannot take the Train the Trainer course. The National Camping School trained COPE or Climbing Director taking this class will bring their local council proposed training per their specific type of course, tower or rock to this class to be reviewed. They would base their training on the NCS syllabus per their types of course, tower or rock training. Collaborations between councils are still encouraged. A director seeking permission to assist with training in a council that needs help growing or developing their Climbing or COPE program would need to bring their and the other council’s training plan and have the permission from both council’s scout executives and/or Climbing and/or COPE committee (if they have one). No director can train level 2s outside of his or her council without a training agreement or collaboration approved. After a director has finished the Train the Trainer course and has a council or councils training syllabus approved, his first training will be monitored by peer review of another director of his same card and the peer review document will be submitted to the region chair. It is not terribly different from what we have now, but everyone will come back to NCS, if only for an NCS recert class, every 5 years. A COPE or Climbing Director would still be able to train Level 1s without attending a Train the Trainer Course. A Train the Trainer course should cost approximately what we charge for PM course now.

Look for an upcoming update of Climbing Merit Badge, and then a bit later an update to Belay On, the instructor manual. Several outdated topics, practices and industry standards were in our old merit badges. A few were a safety concern. There are several proposed NCAP standard changes; mostly safety driven changes, and some of them driving the changes in Climbing Merit Badge and Belay On.
CONSERVATION THROUGH CERTIFICATION: AN OPPORTUNITY

Need a conservation plan for your camp property? This can be a daunting challenge for council staff.

A good conservation plan addresses all the various resource elements that together provide for a healthy environment and support the goals of the camp program for Scouts and their leaders.

Sustainability is another consideration for today’s council properties. Such Scouting principles as thrifty and resourceful use of energy and water, applying outdoor ethics, being good stewards of council lands for today and tomorrow, and continuous improvement and measured results are part of a sustainability program.

At the recent National Outdoor Conference (NOC) at Philmont, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI), provided conference attendees the opportunity to consider participating in the SFI Forest Partners® BSA project to offer SFI forest certification to council properties. SFI is an independent, non-profit organization with a mission to advance sustainability through forest-focused collaborations. Currently 100,000 acres of both Philmont and the Summit Bechtel Reserve are SFI certified. This means that these properties have conservation plans that are in compliance with the SFI Forest Management Standard that promotes healthy forests.

The SFI Forest Partners Program, which is a partnership between SFI, Meredith, National Geographic, Pearson, Macmillan, Hearst Enterprises and Boy Scouts of America have provided assistance for initial certification, including funding for assessments of potential participants’ plans, consulting fees, and initial audit readiness. This support will result in developing a pathway for new certification of Scout properties.

Over twenty-five council representatives attending the National Outdoor Conference completed questionnaires providing data on camp properties that might benefit from SFI certification. Currently this information is being reviewed by SFI’s Barry Graden, Director of the SFI Forest Partners® Program and SFI’s consultant, Bob Radspinner who incidentally are both Eagle Scouts and active scouters.

Questionnaires are still being collected and are available online at https://forms.gle/LzHAp7fx2BWJSHGj6. Need more information? Contact Bob Radspinner at Radspin221@comcast.net.
NORTHEAST REGION, BSA
OUTDOOR PROGRAM SEMINAR
October 9-11, 2020 - Alpine Scout Camp

The next Northeast Region Outdoor Program Seminar will be held at Alpine Scout Camp – October 9-11, 2020. Anyone from any region is invited to attend.

Many program options (program tracks) are planned, such as:
   Camp Ranger Track with an option to include training that could be used to meet the annual 12 hours of continuing education training
   COPE/Climbing section
   Shooting Sports section
   Aquatics section
   Camping / Outdoor Programs – Cubs, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Family programs
   Outdoor Ethics
   Risk Management Track (insurance, risk mitigation, etc.)
   Reeves Conversations – various current Scouting topics
   Plus, others to be listed soon

More details will be available in the Spring of 2020

Contacts: 2020 NEROPS Chair - Barry Simays barry.simays@gmail.com
A lot has happened in the past couple of months and you’ll see much more in the coming months.

The subscription continues to grow between the Boy Scouts organization and Fiix. As of October 4th there are 303 users across 68 accounts. Our next threshold for cost reduction is when we hit 401 users where the monthly equivalent will drop from $23 to $20, or $240 per year. The daily equivalent then becomes $0.66 per day per user. Our end goal of $120 per year, or just under $0.33 per day per user, is getting closer with every new user coming on, so if you’re not a user now give serious consideration for joining in the subscription.

Fiix has brought on board a training and education manager, Joanne Wood. In talking with her and our challenges she is assembling learning webinars which will be live as well as recorded for later viewing. We’ve completed the first with good attendance and more are coming soon!

Several of you have asked about reports and the metering measure trigger so you can readily see which vehicle(s) are coming up for service. Currently it is a time-based measure versus a metering measure. We’re looking to review that in one of the three upcoming webinars Joanne is assembling. The report feature will also be reviewed so we’ll have up-to-date, relevant information.

Had a great discussion with Rick Ledgerwood out of the Heart of America Council in Kansas City while at NOC regarding how they’ve taken advantage of the finance side of the software. We look to assemble further learning events to bring this valuable component to all users in the near future so stay tuned.

For those of you in the Central Region a leadership retreat has brought focus on seeing the majority of councils become users to not only record their maintenance needs, but to also budget more effectively in the coming years as they move towards being more pro-active on maintenance than reactive. The Central Region currently makes up nearly 32% of the councils currently subscribed.

We’re also working on other issues such as –

- Work Order status and how requesters can be notified on WO progress
- Having GPS capability outside of just the equipment category of asset
- Ranger continuing education recording and history

Feel free to contact -  
  Mike Pingitore, Customer Success Manager  
  1.647.557.7955 or mike.pingitore@fiixsoftware.com  
  Dave Cornell, Architect, Outdoor Programs / Properties Team  
  972.580.2412 or dave.cornell@scouting.org

Also check out - Fiix Users Group in Workplace for those of you with a ‘…scouting.org’ email address

Let’s get to the 400 number of Users!
2020 National Outdoor Ethics and Conservation Conference

Where Education Meets Adventure

Scouting’s values and programs are best delivered in the outdoors. How does a BSA volunteer or professional keep up with new ways of maximizing time spent at council camps and other outdoor venues? By attending the 2020 National Outdoor Ethics and Conservation Conference and pre-conference trainings and workshops!

When: November 9 – 15, 2020

Where: Camp Durant, Occoneechee Scout Reservation, Carthage, North Carolina

This multi-day conference is designed to give volunteers and professionals up-to-date information to deliver the Outdoor Ethics and Conservation programs working across the multiple levels of our councils (unit, district, council staff, and volunteer leadership). The program includes pre-conference training offerings, Keynote Speaker addresses, General Learning Sessions, lots of Technical Sessions, Posters, Displays, Exhibitors, Activities and a Regional meet and greet.

When is it?

Pre-conference workshop offerings are open to any Scouter or Professional interested in broadening your horizons. These workshops will vary in length depending upon the particular program. They are scheduled to start after dinner on Monday or on Tuesday, continuing through 3:00 pm on Thursday afternoon. Confirmed pre-conference offerings include a William T. Hornaday Adviser Training course, BSA Certified Angler Instructor Course, and Project Learning Tree Workshop.

The main conference will begin with dinner on Thursday night, November 12th with sessions taking place all day Friday and Saturday, as well as Saturday evening. Departure is after breakfast on Sunday morning, November 15th.

Who Should Attend?

Pre-conference offerings are designed for anyone involved in outdoor program delivery at the national, region, area, council, district and/or unit level. You do not need to attend the main conference to take advantage of any of the pre-conference offerings!

The main conference is designed for Outdoor Ethics Advocates at the Council, Area, and District levels, Leave No Trace Master Educators, Leave No Trace Trainers, Master Tread Trainers, Tread Trainers, Council Conservation and Outdoor Ethics Committee members, Outdoor Program professionals, Outdoor Adventure VP’s, and local land managers from both inside and outside of the BSA.
How Much Does It Cost?

Costs for conference attendees is currently being determined. Each of the pre-conference offerings will vary in cost by facilities required, meals and program supplies. There will be one fee for the main conference that will include all facilities, meals, equipment and program supplies.

All pre-conference and main conference attendees will have the choice of where they would like to sleep. You can choose from a bunk in a four-person cabin (heat/AC), a standard wall tent with a cot (limited availability), Bring Your Own Tent/Hammock campsite with shelters and bathhouses, or offsite housing at a local hotel. Sleeping accommodation fees will be selected by the attendee and charged separately.

Follow the “2020 National Outdoor Ethics & Conservation Conference” page on Facebook to watch for program updates and registration information.

Looking for a 2020 Leave No Trace Master Educator Course?

See this link for the listing of 2020 courses.
Outdoor Activities to Help Scouts Secure an Adventure or Earn a Merit Badge

Project Learning Tree® (PLT), the environmental education program of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, recently collaborated with the Boy Scouts of America to correlate PLT activities to many Cub Scout Adventures and Scouts BSA merit badges. Scout leaders can use these crosswalks to find PLT activities to help Cub Scouts secure an Adventure and Scouts a Merit Badge.

For example, in PLT’s “Are Vacant Lots Vacant?” activity, Scouts are invited to look closely over one small square and find that plants of all kinds thrive in vacant lots, along with a host of animals including insects, birds, and mammals. This activity transforms a nearby vacant lot, overgrown strip, or a landscaped area into a rich laboratory for Scouts to examine elements of an ecosystem. This activity supports the Tiger “Backyard Jungle” Adventure first requirement of “taking a 1-foot hike.”

In PLT’s “A Forest of Many Uses” activity, Scouts are taught how privately and publicly owned forests are managed to provide many different resources. Scouts learn how forests are managed to meet a variety of human and environmental needs. This experiential learning fulfills the Forestry Merit Badge’s Requirement 3.A (2), which necessitates that Scouts can “describe contributions forests make to social well-being.”

PLT’s easy-to-do, hands-on and outdoor activities connect youth to nature in urban, suburban, and rural settings. They get kids outside and teachers often report back children don’t realize they are learning as they are having so much fun.

PLT has a rich history going back more than 40 years of educating teachers and youth about forests and the environment. In addition to schools, PLT is widely used in nonformal settings, such as in nature centers and through after school programs, Scouts, 4-H, and other youth development programs.

PLT helps young people learn how to think, not what to think, about complex environmental issues. The program inspires youth to take action for sustainable forests and a sustainable planet, and introduces young people to green jobs and careers in forestry and natural resources management.

You can easily incorporate PLT activities into your outdoor programs. No prior knowledge or teaching experience is needed to use PLT! PLT materials are available either by participating in an online or in-person professional development workshop or through the PLT website. Contact your state’s coordinator to find out about workshops in your area.

For more information, visit https://www.plt.org/bsa.
BSA FISHING

What is a Smile Worth?

There is only joy to see a Scout’s big smile when they catch a fish and especially when it is their first ever fish. The question is – “Do our councils offer a good opportunity to deliver those smiles?” Many do, but most council camps are void of fishing programs with an emphasis to deliver a good fishing experience to their customers.

It requires three important elements for success:

1. A fishery where Scouts have good chance to catch fish within 15 minutes, including safe lake access.
2. Proper, age appropriate, fishing equipment, well maintained and adequate bait or lures for the species.
3. The third element is qualified instruction that our BSA Certified Angling Instructors are prepared to provide to all councils.

Our Certified Angling Instructors (CAIs) can help councils provide all three of the above keys in providing expertise and staffing your council’s Fishing Committee. Fishing is a very important tool for Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation since it is a highly desired activity for Scouts of all ages. CAIs have access to provide proper fishing gear at highly reduced prices. Fishing is a low investment – big rewards activity. We began the year having trained just over 1,100 CAIs and through September have added over 250 more this year with a projected total of 1,400 by the end of this year. We still have over 50% of our councils without active CAIs. For more information go to BSAFishing.com.

Scouts Love to Fish

Over 2 million Fishing Merit Badges have been earned and Fishing Merit Badge has continually been one of the top ten most popular non-Eagle required merit badges. Boy’s Life subscribers go fishing on an average 8.1 times per year but only 33% are within their Scouting programs. A Baylor study found that Scouts are 33% more likely, than non-Scouts, to regularly go fishing, as they become adults.

How do you become a BSA Certified Angling Instructor?

To become a CAI, you need to attend a weekend CAI Course. Contact your Regional Fishing Chairman www.bsafishing.org to answer any questions, find an existing course, or schedule a course in your Council. The BSA Fishing Committee has designated the CAI Course as a train-the-trainer course (BSA Training PAS Code: CS61 / Patch Code from BSA National Supply: 620739). All course instructors focus on providing enhancements to BSA fishing programs and serving our Scouts.

We also offer fishing as “The Gateway for Girls to Scouting”. RBFF reported that females were the fastest growing segment of new anglers in 2018 with age demographics showing 6-28 years dominate. Additionally, family fishing is showing huge growth. The Hispanic population, also family focused, goes fishing 30% more often than the overall average. Both Females and Hispanics are prime recruiting targets for BSA, and fishing is a valuable tool for attracting them.

Submitted by: Ben Jelsema – Chairman, BSA National Fishing Sub-Committee
Fall is a Wonderful Time of Year for Humans and Ticks

LivLyme Foundation’s TickTracker app can help keep scouts safe

Hiking and camping in the fall season are great ways to enjoy the outdoors, but don’t let ticks spoil your fun and, more importantly, make you sick. Even though the temperatures are getting cooler, the risk of contracting Lyme disease is still high during the fall season. The leaf piles that, as children, we all loved jumping into are where ticks like to live during the colder weather—in fact, ticks do not even go dormant in many parts of the country. The black-legged (or deer) tick, which carries the bacteria that causes Lyme disease, has been found in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. By following a few simple precautions, you can avoid becoming a statistic. The CDC estimates that there are more than 300,000 cases of Lyme disease annually in the USA.

One key precaution should be downloading the TickTracker app. Ticktracker allows users to see what tick activity that may exist in their general vicinity as reported by the public and researchers. Users of the app do not have to be scientists; anyone noticing a tick can snap a picture, upload the details and the information goes into a large database, where it is synthesized for errors. Utilizing a patent-pending algorithm, TickTracker coordinates multiple tick-activity data sources into a simple and user-friendly format. In addition to providing real-time and historic data, such as tick sightings and bites, on an interactive map using geolocation, the life-saving app also educates users about tick identification, prevention and safety through game-based learning.

Since ticks cannot fly or jump, they grab onto their victims who walk by the shrubs and bushes where they live. Besides walking in the center of trails, it’s advisable to wear long pants (preferably light-colored so the little arachnids are more visible), high socks (especially if you tuck in your pants legs), and sturdy shoes or boots (not sandals) while in areas with lots of trees and undergrowth. Tick repellents containing DEET, lemon oil or eucalyptus are available for skin and clothes, and the chemical permethrin provides additional protection for clothing, footwear, daypacks, and camping gear.

After hiking, or while camping, in a tick-prone area, be sure to check your body (especially the back of the neck, behind and in the ears, the underarms, navel and genitals, behind the knees, on the ankles, and between the toes) and your hair and scalp. Should you find a tick under your skin, remove it as soon as possible, even though it’s unlikely you’ll get infected if the tick is removed within 36 to 48 hours. Using a pair of fine-tipped tweezers, pull upward with steady pressure, ensuring that no parts of the tick remain in the skin. Then clean the bite area with rubbing alcohol or soap and water. To dispose of a live tick, place it in alcohol, wrap it tightly in tape, flush it down the toilet, or place it in a sealed bag or container.

To kill ticks that may have been carried home in clothing, tumble the dry clothes on high heat for 10 minutes in a dryer and, if necessary, increase time for damp items. If washing is required first, hot water, not cool or medium temperature, is needed to destroy ticks. A small bump or redness that immediately occurs at the tick bite site and resembles a mosquito bite will generally disappear in a day or two and is not a sign of Lyme disease. A rash that resembles a bullseye and appears within 3-30 days is usually the first sign of infection. Approximately 70 to 80 percent of infected persons experience a rash, which starts at the tick bite site and may feel warm, although seldom itchy or painful. Additional early symptoms include fever, chills, headache, fatigue, muscle and joint pain, and swollen lymph nodes.

The LivLyme Foundation was started by 15-year-old Lyme disease advocate Olivia Goodreau. Olivia was bitten by a tick bite while on a family vacation to Missouri in the second grade and doctors struggled to find out what was wrong with Olivia since she did not present the common bulls-eye rash. After being seen by 51 different physicians, she was finally diagnosed with Lyme disease. Currently, she takes over 80 medications daily and several IVIG treatments monthly causing her to not only miss out on school, but a normal life of a 15-year-old girl. However, most cases can be treated with antibiotics, but if left untreated Lyme disease can lead to long-term complications and may even be fatal.
Save the Date! - 2020 BSA National Aquatics Conference

Come to share ideas, best practices and fellowship. Grow your council Aquatic Leadership. See the newest ideas in aquatics program and equipment. This four-day aquatics conference is especially well-suited for council program directors, council aquatic committee members, camp aquatic directors and National Camping School staff members. The conference fee, which will be finalized when registration opens, includes meals, dormitory housing, and course materials.

The BSA National Aquatics Conference begins with dinner on Wednesday, Sept. 30, and concludes after breakfast on Sunday, Oct. 4. 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. A half-day of Whitewater rafting, Ziplining or Canopy tours is included in the conference fee.
Golf Carts and UTV’s in Camps

As more and more councils are having requests for use of UTV’s in camps to help people get around camp, and with more and more camps using UTV’s and golf carts as part of their maintenance and transportation we are also having additional challenges occurring. Safety is the main concern for all involved so the following changes will be made in 2020.

- UTVs and golf carts may be used by maintenance personnel or to transport disabled or other individuals on camp property when the operator is 18 years of age or older and is trained in the safe operation of the vehicle by taking the ROHVA Safety E-Course at www.rohva.org, and the council has a usage policy.
- ATV’s may only be used for program if the camp is part of the official BSA ATV program. Passengers may not be carried in the beds of trucks, UTV’s or in trailers.

Hazard Trees

Tree limbs, trunks, and roots all can be hazardous to a camping experience, campers can trip over them, run into the limbs and unfortunately even be crushed by them should they fall. The following safety moments can be used to remind leaders and staff about safety in selecting campsites free of hazard trees.

Hazard Trees

Jack’s Story

As we enter fall, it is a great time to look around your camp specifically for hazard trees, low limbs or stumps and roots in areas where campers can walk. Some tips:

- Limb up trees to at least 8 feet above walking surfaces and on paths.
- Remove stumps when you take down a tree to below grade, or as one council has started, leave the stumps at least 3 feet high so they are clearly visible and obvious.
- Make sure that any campsites are free of hazard trees and areas where tents will be set are outside a potential hazard tree fall.

Welding Merit Badge Support Available from Lincoln Electric

If your camp or council needs assistance with Welding Merit Badge, contact Charlie Cross, Cross, Charles_Cross@LincolnElectric.com for complete information on how Lincoln Electric can make this popular program a reality in your council. Lincoln Electric has been a partner with the BSA since 2013.
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