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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From The Chair:

Be sure to take a look at the info flyer on the two Central Region Winter Outdoor Program Conferences. We are offering some exciting new topics, including a two-hour workshop on Cub Scout Day Camp Program ideas. Exciting and dynamic camping programs are the key to retention and advancement. Day Camp is the new Cub’s first exposure to Scout outdoor programs, so it has to be the best. There is only one opportunity to make a good impression. This workshop is open to anyone, Scouter or professional, involved in Day Camp at the district or council level. Gather up your friends, fill a car and come to one of the conferences.

In this issue we welcome a new member to the CROPS Team. Ted Weiland is our new Conservation rep on the National Conservation Sub Committee. Ted is available to help you or your council with conservation related issues as well as helping set up a Hornaday Award program in your council.

CONSERVATION

Conservation in the Central Region is hitting the ground running for the Fall of 2019.

I would like to introduce myself as the newest member of the CROPS team. I am Ted Weiland and I am proud to serve as the Central Region Lead for Conservation and Hornaday Awards. Conservation has been a personal passion of mine ever since I was an Ecology and Conservation Director at LE Phillips Scout Reservation. I have focused that energy into national projects like SummitCorps and area projects like ArrowPower2011. I was also fortunate enough to serve on conservation staffs at Northern Tier and Philmont. We have several events coming up through the next several months, and I am excited to help deliver that program to the Central Region.

Attending the W. T. Hornaday Adviser Training is a way to help scouts achieve this recognition in your council. This event will be at Camp Rotary in Clare, MI, October 11-13th, 2019. This program is being offered in conjunction with Certified Angler Instruction (CAI) and Tread Lightly Trainer. This event can set up your local council conservation committee with some of the best conservation training the BSA offers! You can follow this link to register for this amazing event here: https://scoutingevent.com/272-ecocon2019

If you are unable to attend the Central Region Hornaday Training, there is an opportunity in the Northeast Region on October 4-6th, 2019 at Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation in Russell, MA. Follow the registration link here for that event: https://www.wmascouting.org/hornadaytraining2019

Resources to help build a successful Conservation Committee in your local council can be found in the latest update to the Council Conservation Committee Guidebook. You can find it at the link below. https://i9peu1ikn3a16vg4e45rqi17-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Council-Conservation-Committee-Guidebook-2019.pdf

Watch out for the upcoming regional CROPS meetings in January. There will be presentations at that event to help support your council’s efforts on Conservation. I hope to see you in Des Moines on January 18th or Indianapolis on January 25th.

The role of conservation in the BSA is going to continue to increase in upcoming national events. As program is finalized, you will be able to read about it here! I leave you with this quote:

“When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”
See you all further down the Scouting trail.

Ted Weiland
Central Region Lead Conservation and Hornaday Awards

FISHING

I’m happy to report that fishing programs in the Central Region have been plentiful this summer, and have provided many Scouts, siblings and family members with First Catch experiences through high quality outdoor programming.

For pics of events please visit a newly created Facebook Group, Scout ‘n Fish. Please encourage your Scouts to participate in this social media page, and share their #FIRSTCATCH Scouting adventures.

A great example was the recent 24th World Scout Jamboree – Fishing Programs, which was recently highlighted by the International Game Fish Association in their August, 2019, issue of the International Angler. Or click here for the World Scout Jamboree.

We continue to observe many Fishing program areas that need some attention. Listed below are some of our most frequently made recommendations by BSA Certified Angling Instructors and Council Fishing Committees.

- Council Execs – those in charge of Outdoor Programs, are encouraged to become aware of the BSA Certified Angling Instructor Program and its benefit to their Council. For more information on the CAI program visit www.bsafishing.com

- All Scouting professionals are encouraged to get on-board with change management efforts, and begin to recruit volunteers whose efforts will be directed toward improved Fishing Program delivery at the Unit, District, and Council levels.

- Council volunteers are encouraged to attend BSA Certified Angling Instructor Training Classes, to assist in Fishing Program delivery. For more information, visit Upcoming CAI Training Opportunities.

- Job Applicants for Summer Camp Fishing Program Counselors are strongly encouraged to obtain certification as a BSA Certified Angling Instructor prior to applying for positions. For more information visit Upcoming CAI Training Opportunities

- Job qualifications for Summer Camp Fishing Program Counselors should be amended to require recognition as a BSA Complete Angler and a BSA Certified Angling Instructor.

- Summer Camp fishing equipment needs to be inventoried, repaired, and well maintained. In most cases, replacement is strongly encouraged, emphasizing quality and quantity of properly
matched equipment to the age and skill of participants. *Note: Preferred product pricing is available through members of the BSA Certified Angling Instructor team.*

- Fishing Equipment Storage Areas need to be developed, organized, and made inviting and accessible to Summer Camp Program Counselors and their Scouts participating in the Fishing Program. *(Waterfront / Shooting Sports Quality!)*

- [Lake and Pond management](#) efforts need to be put in place. Shoreline access points need to be cleared and maintained where the scouts fish.

- [Fish Habitats](#) need to be developed and placed where the scouts fish.

- Implementation of the [Monofilament Line Recycling](#) program needs to be developed, supporting the Leave No Trace principles and Outdoor Code.

If you want to learn more about the BSA Certified Angling Instructor Program, please visit us at [www.bsafishing.com](http://www.bsafishing.com) or visit our Facebook page [CAI- Certified Angling Instructors](#)

Interested in joining our team?

Please contact your [Central Region Area Lead - Fishing](#).

*Michael Brand*
2020 Central Region Outdoor Conferences

January 18, Maytag Center, 6123 Scout Trail, Des Moines, IA
or
January 25, Camp Belzer, 6102 Boy Scout Rd, Lawrence, IN

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

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

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

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

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

**January 18 - Des Moines, IA**

**January 25 - Lawrence, IN**

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

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

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

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

2:15 to 2:40

**General Session – Family Adventure Camping**

9:15 and 12:10 Sessions

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

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

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

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

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

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

10:20 and 1:10 Sessions

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

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

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

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

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

**Jamboree Promotion:** With less than 20 months to the 2021 Scouts BSA Jamboree, take a look at programming, local council registration/promotion, and staff needs.
BSA National Aquatics Conference
September 30- October 4, 2020
The Summit Bechtel Reserve
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 SE...all freeway. You are on your own 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.
COPE & CLIMBING
Program Managers Course

The Central Region will host a fall COPE & Climbing Program Managers Course October 11 – 13, 2019 at Tesomas Scout Camp, Rhinelander, WI.

The COPE & Climbing Program Manager Course is designed for individuals who provide program management for their councils COPE and/or Climbing programs. The course will also provide helpful hints for developing in-council training, a review of the Training Program Evaluation process and the use of the NEW Scout Tracking software. If your council has an in-council Level II Instructor training program, the NCAP standards require you to have an NCS trained Program Manager.

Participants must be in good physical condition and must be current in their training as a COPE or Climbing NCS Director or Level II Instructor. Please bring a current health form with you.

The course will start at 6:00 pm, Friday, October 11, 2019 and conclude around noon on Sunday, October 13, 2019.

To register go to www.samoset.org/pm2019. The cost for the Program Managers course will be $25.00. Registration includes the Friday night Cracker Barrel, 3 meals on Saturday, Sunday morning breakfast and lodging. For questions about registration please contact Scott Domino, Scott.domino@samoset.org. For course questions please contact John Harrits, harrits@earthlink.com or 414-587-4564 (c).

Discontinuance of Continuing Education Recertification

One of the ways to recertify your COPE or Climbing card was to complete an application demonstrating continuing education in several areas related to COPE and Climbing. At the national COPE/Climbing sub-committee meeting in September, the decision was made to discontinue this process as of December 31, 2019. There were many factors that influenced this decision. A primary reason was most applicants could not adequately document they had participated in a significant number of C/C programs which was an indication they had maintained both their soft and hard skill sets from their training.

You can still submit a Continuing Education application up to 12/31/19. All applications should be sent to Rhonda Wright, Chair of the National COPE/Climbing Sub-committee.

John Harrits – Central Region Chair – COPE/Climbing
MEET THE CROPS TEAM!

Chair ........................................ Daniel Gille  
dcgille@gmail.com
Conservation Sub Committee ........ Ted Weiland  
ted.weiland@gmail.com
Cub Camping Resource ............... Jay Oakman  
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Strategic Analysis & Facilities ........ John Makowski  
johnmakowski@live.com
Management Sub Committee ...........
Welcome to fall in the Central Region! A busy summer is behind us, with a very successful World Jamboree held at The Summit. Scouts and Scouters from all over the world gathered at The Summit to enjoy world class program areas, trade patches, make lifelong friends and become members of the world brotherhood and sisterhood of Scouting.

We now turn out attention to what is coming up.

The Central Region is again hosting two incredible Outdoor Program Conferences this winter. January 18th in Des Moines, IA, and January 25th in Indianapolis, IN. We have a great line up of presenters, including several from the National Office. We will be presenting a 2-hour workshop focused on Cub Scout Day Camp program ideas, led by Andrea Watson. There will sessions focused on NCAP updates, shooting sports, fishing and other program areas. Registration is now open. See the flyer in this issue.

The Camp Ranger certification has changed from National Camp School to annual continuing education hours. With Scout Executive (or a Ranger’s supervisor) approval, all the sessions at our conferences can be used to meet this requirement. We hope to see a lot of Camp Rangers this year!

In an effort to promote sustainability, we will no longer be providing bottled water or disposable coffee cups, so be sure to bring your own refillable water bottle or coffee mug. We are trying to reduce our impact, and will try to recycle as much of our waste as possible.

I know we just finished the World Jamboree, but in July 2021 The Summit will be hosting the next National Jamboree. It is never too early to begin promoting and recruiting for the 2021 Jamboree. Our past chair, Aaron Randolph, is leading the Central Region’s jamboree efforts, so you may be hearing from him soon!

Thanks for all you do to help deliver The Promise to all the Scouts in the Central Region!

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Special Thanks to Karen Gille for proofreading and layout.

Future Publication Date: Winter 2020