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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COPE AND CLIMBING

Training and Conference Opportunities

The central region will hold a Program Manager Training and COPE/Climbing Conference on October 4 – 7, 2018, at Howard H Cherry Scout Reservation, Central City, IA. The Program Manager class will start at 9:00 am, Thursday, October 4, and conclude before noon on the 7th. The cost for both the course and conference is $100.00.

Do you already have your Program Managers card, then come for the conference to find out what has been happening in COPE/Climbing in the Central Region, NCAP updates, and assessor and other educational opportunities. The conference will start at 9:00 am, Saturday, October 6, and conclude before noon on the 7th. The cost for the conference only is $50.00.

To register please go online to: http://www.hawkeyebsa.org/Event.aspx?id=2294

The Central Region Outdoor Program Committee (CROP) is again presenting two conferences dedicated to outdoor program topics. The dates are January 19, 2019, at the Maytag Center in Des Moines, IA, and January 26 at Camp Belzer in Lawrence, IN. During the COPE section we will be presenting two of the modules on using COPE to teach Stem topics. More information to follow shortly.

John Harrits

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

We continue to observe many fishing program areas that may need some attention over the coming months. Listed below are some of our most frequently made CAI recommendations from 2018.

- Council executives 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

- Scouting professionals are encouraged to get onboard 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 or visit our Facebook page CAI- Certified Angling Instructors

Interested in joining our team?

Please contact your Central Region Area Lead - Fishing.

*Michael Brand*
SHOOTING SPORTS

There are many activities, opportunities, and changes occurring throughout the Central Region Councils.

Age Appropriate Guidelines (Update)

The Age Appropriate Guidelines for Scouting Activities was changed on August 11. Tiger Cubs (with an adult partner) may participate in BB Gun Shooting at Council & District events. The original guideline allowed this, but had been changed to exclude this age group. That change was rescinded as of August 11.

National Shooting Sports Conference

The National Shooting Sports Conference will be held September 28-30 at BSA Bechtel Summit Reservation. Participants will see and experience BSA Shooting Sports programs for Cub Scouts through Venturing. With the knowledge and resources provided, your Council will be able to provide a better program, enhance recruitment, and increase membership. If your Council sends 3 attendees, a $250 discount is being offered for an attendee to the 2019 National Camp School. [https://reservations.scouting.org/profile/105489](https://reservations.scouting.org/profile/105489)

Shooting Sports Training Opportunities

There are training opportunities in every Council that appear to be invisible to adjacent Councils. We need to improve the communication of training events to enable those who are seeking additional knowledge, skills, and certifications to obtain their goals. The NRA has changed the requirements on June 30th for NRA Instructor certification that includes additional training. The US Archery Instructor certifications have small changes that everyone must be aware of. This all creates an increased burden to the NRA Training Counselors and US Archery Instructor Trainers. We want to provide each Central Region Area information for shooting sports training in their Area. Please send your announcements of training events in your Council to rgschuster.nra@gmail.com for publication.

Shooting Sports Programs

There are many exciting shooting sports programs that Councils should consider incorporating into either the year round or Resident Camp programs. Need Info?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cowboy Action Shooting</th>
<th>Sporting Arrows</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chalk Ball Shooting</td>
<td>Rendezvous (Muzzle Loading Rifle)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Archery</td>
<td>BSA Pistol Safety &amp; Marksmanship</td>
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Scouting Recruitment – Daisy Inflatable Range

Cub Scout recruitment is one of the most important activities for any Council. Daisy Outdoor Products has an inflatable BB Gun range that is a magnet for all. It can be easily setup outdoors or indoors. Daisy is offering this to BSA Councils for only $1600. [Daisy Equipment Order](https://www.daisy.com)
The Daisy/ BSA BB Gun Range is being used by several Councils at recruiting events. Potawatomi Area Council #651, Crossroads of America Council #160, and Hoosier Trails Council #145 have used this to aid in increasing the interest in Cub Scouts with success. Perhaps your Council should consider this too!

Here is a recent event at Potawatomi Area Council using the Daisy BB Gun Range:

Crossroads of America Council held an event and 25% of the participants were young girls. The parents said they were joining Cub Scouts as the programs are exciting and better than what was offered by other youth organizations.

**Shooting Sports Grants Season is Opening!**

**NRA Range Development Grants**

The NRA will assist your Council in developing your new ranges. These grants are not easily obtained, but can be available to those that submit the request and supporting documentation. Considering a new range for your camps or want to improve your range? [https://www.nrafoundation.org/grants/](https://www.nrafoundation.org/grants/)

**Friends of the NRA (FNRA) Grants**

Annually the FNRA accepts applications for grants from organizations promoting shootings sports. These groups include the BSA, 4-H, Girls Scouts of the United States of America, and other groups. Applications for the 2019 will begin in the next few months. Your Council can submit multiple grant requests for different programs or camps. Grants are provided as materials, equipment, or money. [https://www.nrafoundation.org/grants/](https://www.nrafoundation.org/grants/)

**National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) Matching Grants**

The NSSF typically provides $100,000 in matching grants to BSA Councils. The maximum per Council is $2000. In 2018 the NSSF offered this program twice. The NSSF wants to promote youth involvement in shooting sports, and is waiting for you to apply for the money. [https://www.nssf.org/shooting/bsa-grant/](https://www.nssf.org/shooting/bsa-grant/)

*Ralph Schuster*
NCAP

We’re wrapping up the Authorizations for 2018. Most Councils will be receiving theirs in the coming weeks. In 2019 we’ll have 20 Councils who will be seeking Authorization. They should be receiving their first emails introducing the process in October.

In examining Authorizations, we have three primary concerns:

1. *The health, safety, and wellbeing of everyone attending camp.*
   Whether you’re a participant, volunteer leader, staff, or guest you need the confidence that we’re doing all we can to minimize the risk at your facility.

2. *The financial sustainability of a council’s camping program.*
   It’s not just nice, but essentially *required* that a council see black ink on the bottom right corner of their financial statements. The extent that a camp contributes or deters from a council’s financial performance is important information when managing their finances. If a camp drains cash from its council’s budget, the Board of Trustees needs to know that information so it can properly understand how to manage their finances.

3. *Protect the BSA Brand.*
   Protecting the brand includes numbers 1 & 2 above but also requires a strong program, engaged staff, and top-notch facilities.

Finally, I want to encourage input in the NCAP process. I’m new to the NCAP team and I can say I’m pleased by the openess of the National NCAP Committee regarding improving the process. If you have ideas about how the NCAP process can be improved, I’m your conduit to the Committee. Part of my job is to propose enhancements to NCAP and I look forward to hearing your ideas for making the process easier, more robust, or streamlined. Reach me via email at dhunt@huntel.net or on my cell at 402.533.8853.

Dan Hunt
SAVE THE DATE
2019 Outdoor Conferences

January 19, Maytag Center, 6123 Scout Trail, Des Moines, IA
or
January 26, Camp Belzer, 6102 Boy Scout Rd., Lawrence, IN

Once again in 2019, the Region Outdoor Adventure Group is proud to offer two conferences that provide you with shorter travel time and date options. You can attend either conference and learn how to better serve youth in the outdoors. These conferences are open to any Scouter at all levels with an interest in Outdoor Program, NCAP, and Resident Camp. There will be sessions exclusive to Cub Scouts in the outdoors, as well as other new sessions, including a morning and afternoon workshop devoted to the Authorization to Operate.

Cost is $30 per person for food and materials. Field uniform is appropriate. 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. All fees are prepaid; no checks. Walk-in fee is $50, cash only. You will be notified by email two days prior if cancelled due to inclement weather.

Questions? Contact:

Virgil Reed, Regional Vice President: vreed@cincy.rr.com
Aaron Randolph, Regional Outdoor Program Chair: aranjr@mchsi.com
Dave Truax, Area 2 Director: david.truax@scouting.org
Female Webelos proves boys, girls have more in common than you might think

Brianna Brady’s bedroom has pink walls, a flower-print valance and a basket full of Barbies.

“And you want to be a Boy Scout?” the host asks. “How come?”

“Because you get to do stuff with your family,” the 10-year-old replies.

It’s really that simple.

As a Webelos Scout, Brianna gets to enjoy the things she loves with the people she loves.

Now that the Cub Scout program has opened its doors to girls, we’re seeing more and more stories like Brianna’s.

We’re hearing about moms, dads, daughters and sons who are joining Scouting as a family. While dens remain single-gender (made up of all boys or all girls), many Cub Scout packs are choosing to include both boys and girls. This means the entire family can enjoy pack meetings and campouts together.

Brianna’s story gains national attention

By joining Pack 150 of the Patriots’ Path Council in New Jersey, Brianna can experience the program that shaped her dad’s life. Bob Brady is an Eagle Scout and Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow — the highest honor in Scouting’s national honor society.

“As a longtime Scout that gained so much from the program, I’m glad that not only our sons, but now our daughters can take advantage,” Bob Brady wrote on Facebook. “In the end, wouldn’t the world be a better place if everyone lived by the Scout Oath and Law?”

You can watch Brianna’s story in the latest episode of More In Common, a weekly series from ABC that showcases Americans from different backgrounds who come together in unexpected ways. The show airs exclusively on Facebook Watch, the social media site’s platform for original videos.

The episode about Brianna and Pack 150 was filmed during a pack activity held at Camp Somers in Stanhope, N.J. (Side note: This camp looks really cool, and I must visit immediately.)

As of this writing, more than a half-million people have watched the video, which I’ve included at the end of this post.
Boys and girls

The show is called *More in Common*, so what traits do boys and girls share?

“I think [what] boys and girls have in common is they’re both Scouts,” one boy says.

“That’s the *new* thing boys and girls have in common,” the host adds. “They can all be Scouts.”

You see, the values Cub Scouts memorize in the Scout Oath and Scout Law aren’t gendered. Every young person should be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent.

While each of the Scout Law’s 12 points is vital to a young person’s development, Brianna places extra emphasis on No. 6: kind.

“Because if you’re not kind to somebody, then they’re not going to want to be your friend,” she says.

That’s the whole point of this *More in Common* series. To illustrate that, especially in these divided times, we could all use a little more kindness.

*Bryan on Scouting*

August 14, 2018
MEET THE CROPS TEAM!

Chair ........................................... Aaron Randolph  aranjr@mcshi.com
Conservation Task Force .......... Pat Bowen  Pdbowen1@comcast.net
Cub Camping Resource ............ Jim Forrest  jcforrest@comcast.net
Cub Camping Resource ............ Jay Oakman  bsafox@yahoo.com
Camping Task Force/Newsletter . Dan Gille  dcgille@gmail.com
Outdoor Ethics Task Force ........ Toby Green  greentoby58@gmail.com
Cope & Climbing Task Force ...... John Harrits  harrits@sbcglobal.net
Shooting Task Force ............... Ralph Schuster  rgschuster.nra@gmail.com
Fishing Task Force ................. Mike Brand  Michaelbrand314@gmail.com
Aquatics Task Force ............... Terry Budd  paddler@ameritech.net
National Support ................... Brian Gray  Brian.gray@scouting.org
Facilities Task Force .............. John Makowski  johnmakowski@live.com

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

Aaron Randolph  aranjr@mcshi.com

Scout Me In!

Do you know what the Adult Adventure Weekend was? In late June a group of more than 100 adult Scouters spent 3+ wild and crazy days at the Summit Bechtel Reserve getting a firsthand look at, and the opportunity to participate in, all the over the top events and activities offered at the base. My wife and I rode the Big Zip; did several activities in the Rocks, including the Leap of Faith; spent one morning at the rifle and shot gun ranges; spent one morning fishing on the lake by Summit Center; got the VIP tour of program areas; and, the topper, white water rafting adventure on the New River. This promises to be an
annual event, so start watching for the dates for next year because you really don’t want to miss it. It’s the best way to understand what the Summit offers in challenges to our young people.

Fall is upon us and once again we’re busier than ever on recruiting plans. You all know how critically important it is to offer every young person the opportunity to become a part of the most vibrant and challenging youth organization in town. At the same time, you also that know once we get them signed up, we need to keep them engaged in the program. In order for the program to work, we need to deliver on The Promise of excitement, fun, challenges and adventure. Effective program at every level - unit, district, council and national – is the only way this happens.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend one of the two Central Region Outdoor Conferences to be held in late January 2019. The conferences run identical agendas so choose the one best suited to your schedule and your travel planning. Once again we’ll have top leaders from throughout the Region and from the National staff serving as the session moderators. A big part of the discussions at the conferences will involve welcoming girls into the program, with emphasis on how this will impact summer camp operations next year. All sessions are meant to be interactive. We need your ideas and comments in order to uncover resources and program ideas, and to help us all provide better program opportunities for our members. Whether you are brand new to Scouting or you’ve “been there, got the patch, got the shirt”, it doesn’t matter. Bring a car full of your closest Scouting friends because we’re all learners; the program and the ways we deliver it are constantly changing. Our sign-up will be all electronic again this year, and we expect it to go live by October 1. See the flyer on page 8 with conference dates.

For those who wish to nominate a fellow Scouter for the Silver Antelope Award, the nomination deadline is November 30. Only electronic nominations and recommendation letters will be accepted, using the Silver Antelope nomination form – at awards@scouting.org

Last but not least, make time next summer to be a part of the 24th World Scout Jamboree. The BSA is co-hosting, and in order to run the event we need many more staff. Take a few minutes to visit the Jamboree site at https://wsj2019.us/ There are many 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