Welcome to The Promise. It is the intent of the Central Region Outdoor Program Support Team (CROPS) to provide councils with information and tools to improve local outdoor program and help them to better deliver the Promise of Scouting.

Our Vision: To give every young person in Scouting the opportunity to obtain lasting values and a love for the outdoors, and to do so with safety, good facilities, and strong leadership.

Our Mission: To provide every council with sufficient tools to build a quality outdoor experience for young people in a safe and friendly environment, and to support the efforts of all councils to deliver the Promise of Scouting.

Look in this newsletter every quarter for news from the National Service Center, highlights from the Outdoor Program Task Forces and dates of upcoming events. Feel free to distribute this to any interested Scouter and we hope this will be beneficial to your work in the Scouting Movement.

In this Issue

Aquatics 2-3
NCAP Report 4
COPE and Climbing 5
Fishing 6-7
Green Jamboree 8-9
Why the Boy Scouts Are for Girls NowToo 9-12
Central Region Outdoor Conference 12-14
AQUATICS

2017 National Jamboree Recap

The 2017 National Scout Jamboree was held this past July at The Summit Bechtel Reserve in Mount Hope, West Virginia. This event, held every four years, was the second National Jamboree held at the BSA’s newest high adventure base. The theme of the Jamboree was “Live Scouting’s Adventure”.

More than 300 volunteers served on the Jamboree Aquatics Staff in the four aquatics venues: Kayaking, Scuba, Stand-Up Paddle boarding (SUP), and Water Reality. These dedicated individuals were outstanding in providing an exciting and safe program for over 22,000 Scouts and Venturers, and 8,000 staff.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>7/19</th>
<th>7/20</th>
<th>7/21</th>
<th>7/22</th>
<th>7/23</th>
<th>7/24</th>
<th>7/25</th>
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<td>4,18</td>
<td>3,82</td>
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<td>Kayak</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>457</td>
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<td>197</td>
<td>689</td>
<td>556</td>
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<td>Stand Up Paddleboard</td>
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<td>Water Reality</td>
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<td>360</td>
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<td>1,204</td>
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<td>Scuba</td>
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<td>1,300</td>
<td>1,309</td>
<td>2,028</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>868</td>
<td>1,803</td>
<td>1,791</td>
<td>1,091</td>
<td>10,428</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019 World Scouting Jamboree

In Early November, registration was announced for the 2019 World Scouting Jamboree to be co-hosted by three North American Scouting Organizations: The Boy Scouts of America, Scouts Canada, and Asociación de Scouts de México. This 24th World Scouting Jamboree will be hosted at BSA’s new permanent jamboree home: The Summit Bechtel Reserve.
Planning for the Aquatics Program Areas is already in full swing. With an anticipated 45,000 participants and staff from over 167 different countries, this event will bring SBR up to capacity. Each of the four aquatics program areas are undergoing planning for improvements/expansion to handle the anticipated crowds. To handle this 50% increase, we need staff to serve on the International Service Team (IST) in our aquatic venues. We encourage anyone interested in Aquatics to serve on the Aquatics IST. People that have prior World Jamboree experiences or can speak additional languages will be very valuable.

New! Whitewater Rafting BSA Award

Many Scouting units participate in rafting trips conducted by outfitters or councils. A new aquatics award, Whitewater Rafting BSA, recognizes the challenge and adventure of such activities. The award is available to BSA youth and adults who are members of Boy Scout, Varsity, Venturing, or Sea Scout units.

Requirements for the award focus on safety and basic paddling skills on whitewater up to Class III. All instruction and skill completions are directly supervised by a professionally trained or licensed rafting guide. A qualified raft captain must be in each raft during the required trip. Participants help power and control the raft with paddles – simply riding in a raft rowed by a guide is not sufficient.

The new award was featured at the 2017 National Jamboree. An application with requirements and notes to the counselor can be found on the aquatics page of scouting.org.

http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/OutdoorProgram/Aquatics.aspx

Patches and pocket cards are in production and will be available at scoutstuff.org and in local Scout Shops later this season. A support brochure is also planned.

2018 National Aquatics Workshop – Save the Date

The National Aquatics Task Force will host the 2018 Aquatics Workshop at the Sea Base in Islamorada, Florida, starting after dinner on Wednesday, September 26, to Sunday after breakfast September 30, 2018.

This biennial event has been instrumental in providing a vital link between the National Aquatics Task Force and the various local Council aquatics resources. Local Aquatics Committee members, Summer Camp Aquatics Directors, NCS Aquatics Staff and Directors, or anyone with an interest in promoting local aquatics programs should plan to attend.

Don’t miss out! Watch for more information in the spring.
Round 2 of NCAP Authorizations begins in 2018

As we look forward to 2018, those councils who applied for authorization in 2013 (their authorization began in January of 2014), will be applying for the second time. These councils will find the process a lot different. The process is more refined and requires less paperwork and preparation time. This is not intended to mean that the process is quick and requires very little time when done correctly and thoroughly. All councils have received the necessary forms from the national office and authorization writers have been assigned. Councils are reminded that all required signatures must be provided, pictures must be provided for all facilities listed on the Camp Facilities Evaluation Tool, and the Continuous Camp Improvement Plan must comply with national standard AO-810.

During Round 2, authorization writers will be reviewing the council’s original authorization report, their Third-Year Interim Report and their second Application for Authorization, looking for improvement along with progress on sustainability commitments and goals.

I encourage all councils applying for authorization to begin a dialogue with their assigned writer as soon as possible.

The following eleven councils will be applying for authorization during Round 2 Cycle 1:

Northern Star       Jay Hawk
Samoset             Coronado Area
Michigan Crossroads  Pony Express
Abraham Lincoln     Black Swamp
Prairielands        Crossroads of America
Simon Kenton

We would remind Council Scout Executives to review and update their approved list of Area Camp Assessors that are eligible for Camp Assessment Training. These approved lists should be sent to Ollie Burks at Ollie.Burks@scouting.org in the national office. Dates and locations for Area Camp Assessment Training are included in this newsletter.

As always, if anyone has any questions or concerns they should feel free to contact Regional NCAP Co-Chairs:
Dr. Denis Ward, deniswardphd@gmail.com,
Dan Hunt, dhunt@hci-holdings.com
or Regional Assessment Chair Rich Koch, richard.a.koch@boeing.com

Denis Ward, CR NCAP Chair
COPE/CLIMBING

The Central Region COPE/Climbing Committee has scheduled two regional conferences and Program Managers Courses.

The first will be held at Camp Friedlander, Loveland, OH. The Program Manager Class will begin on Thursday Morning, April 5, 2018, and conclude Saturday morning, April 8. The conference will begin Saturday morning, April 8, and conclude mid-day April 9. For Further information, contact John Harrits at harrits@earthlink.net.

The second course will be held at Howard Cherry Scout Reservation, Central City, Iowa. The Program Manager Class will begin on Thursday morning, October 4, 2018 and conclude Saturday morning, April 6. The conference will begin Saturday morning, April 6, and conclude mid-day April 7. For further information, contact John Winter at winterjohn@icloud.com.

**Please note:** COPE and Climbing directors’ recertification’s **will not be offered** as part of the conferences. For recertification courses, please see the NCS brochure, or consider applying for recertification though continuing education. For information on continuing education, see the COPE/Climbing section on Scouting.org.

The BSA national office has arranged for BSA members to join Association for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) for the reduced rate of $30.00 per person. Membership in ACCT provides the following benefits:

- On-line access to ACCT standards
- Discounts for ACCT conferences and training events, ACCT newsletters, alerts for product advisories & safety notices.
- Networking opportunities with other people interested in challenge course facilitation, operation, management, design, and inspection

The process to join is very easy:

1. Email Natalie Hill (ACCT membership manager) at: membership@acctinfo.org requesting to join ACCT as a member of BSA National Council.
2. Natalie will send a link for you to complete your individual profile and make your payment on-line.
3. Complete the on-line profile and make your $30.00 payment.

At the task force meeting in September we reviewed the 2016 – 2017 incidents and near misses. We are doing a much better job of promoting safety in our COPE and Climbing programs. Please keep up the good work. The most significant issue, and where we need to place more emphasis, is on belayer inattention and the requirement for back-up belayers. As you are reviewing your training programs, please pay special attention to these two areas.

*John Harrits, Cope & Climbing Task Force*
FISHING

There are many great things about Scouting and fishing, but the greatest is creating memories with people. I have a winter’s worth of fresh fishing memories to carry me through to the upcoming spring; I hope that you and your Scouts do as well.

At this time of the year, I like to give thanks and congratulate all those that #DARETODO!, especially the Fishing Area Leads and their assembled teams of BSA Certified Angling Instructors, BSA Angler Educators, Fishing/Fly Fishing/Fish & Wildlife Management Merit Badge Counselors, fellow Scouters, family and friends who supported Central Region BSA Fishing Programs offered in 2017.  Great Job!

I am also thankful for the opportunity to serve our youth with quality angling programs. Cub Scouts, Boy Scout, and Venturers and their families participated in quality fishing programs offered at the Unit, District, Council, and National levels. I believe our age and skill based angling programs provided many opportunities to gain knowledge, and put into action many tools and techniques. This builds a foundation for a lifetime hobby filled with enjoyment and fun, meant to be shared with families far into the future.

I witnessed first-hand, Scouts and their families sharing #FirstCatch experiences! These experiences were shared on social media, helping to build awareness of the #OutinginScouting, and its many benefits. So many smiles! I am sure you agree that together we Hooked Youth and Families on Scouting! and have laid the great foundation for participation in 2018 BSA Fishing Programs. Thank you one and all for #DELIVERINGTHEPROMISE in 2017.

Looking forward to 2018 -2020:

The BSA National Fishing Task Force has set a goal to add 250 new BSA Certified Angling Instructors in each of the next 3 years. The Central Region has been challenged to train 84 scouters per year in each of the next 3 years. The Central Region Areas are challenged to train 12 CAI’s per year! We will need the support of our Councils to recruit participants! I am very pleased to report that we are well on our way to meet or exceed our goal in 2018.

Scheduled 2018 Central Region Area CAI Training Courses:

- Simon Kenton - CR Area 4:  https://bcai.wildapricot.org/event-2703812
- Great Rivers - CR Area 5:  https://bcai.wildapricot.org/event-2735938
- Three Harbors - CR Area 7:  https://bcai.wildapricot.org/event-2695777
- Greater St. Louis Area - CR Area 3:  https://bcai.wildapricot.org/event-2695821
- Dan Beard Council - CR Area 6:  https://bcai.wildapricot.org/event-2728317
- Hawkeye Area - CR Area 3:  https://bcai.wildapricot.org/event-2703836

Scheduled 2018 National CAI Training Courses:

- BSA Florida Sea Base - Briton Center:  https://bcai.wildapricot.org/event-2678398
BSA Philmont Training Center:  [https://bcai.wildapricot.org/event-2658560](https://bcai.wildapricot.org/event-2658560)

Scheduled 2018 Other Region CAI Training Courses:
- Other Region Courses:  [https://bcai.wildapricot.org/events](https://bcai.wildapricot.org/events)

If your Council is interested in hosting a Central Region Area CAI Training Course, please contact Michael Brand  michaelbrand314@gmail.com or call 314.477.8120.

Enhance your Recruitment and Retention programs through Fishing
Councils have an opportunity to use a new “Tackle for Educators” program developed by Zebco, the Future Fisherman Foundation and the BSA National Fishing Committee.

- Zebco is offering a special BSA tackle package designed to provide BSA’s Certified Angling Instructors, Scouting Units and Scout Camps a rod package for youth fishing and angler education programs.
- This package will include 8 (eight) complete spinning outfits. This package is designed for the aquatic educator who is looking to stock/re-stock equipment for long term use.

![Zebco 33 Spincast Combo](image)

- These 8 ultra-durable Zebco 33 rod/reel combos are available for $104.00 delivered ($13.00 per rod). (For larger quantity orders please order in units of 8 )
- Place your orders by going to: Futurefisherman.org or this direct link: [http://www.futurefisherman.org/f3-tackle-for-educators/](http://www.futurefisherman.org/f3-tackle-for-educators/)
- Select Package #4 which is the Boy Scouts Package. Please give your CAI #, or Your Council/Unit # in the comments section at checkout.
- Or contact F3 Executive Director, Mark Gintert direct at MLGINTERT@yahoo.com or call 330-993-0014.
WASTE NOT: 2017 NATIONAL JAMBOREE WAS THE GREENEST ON RECORD

Anyone who attended the 2017 National Jamboree already knows it was one of the most successful Jamborees ever.

Now we know it was likely the greenest Jamboree ever, too.

For the first time in recorded National Jamboree history, Scouts, Scouters and staff recycled and reused more than they sent to the landfill.

At the 2017 National Jamboree, held in July at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia, some 298 tons (596,000 pounds) of material was recycled or reused. That exceeds the 280 tons of waste sent to the landfill.

Here’s how that compares to the two previous Jamborees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jamboree</th>
<th>Tons recycled/reused</th>
<th>Tons to landfill</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>1,125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What about National Jamborees before 2010? That data isn’t available, as 2010 was the first time recycling numbers were tracked.

We do know the 2017 Jamboree introduced new efforts to increase recycling and decrease food waste. It’s hard to imagine earlier Jamborees beating 2017’s impressive achievement.

Green Team, go!

You can call them the Green Team, or you can call them Recycle Rangers. Either way, these Jamboree volunteers were instrumental in encouraging recycling at the 2017 event.

The Green Team trained Jamboree participants and staffers, telling them what to recycle and reuse, and what was OK to toss.

Jim Miles, Green Team leader, said Scouts eagerly accepted the mission.
“This all happened because, as members of the BSA, we have always cared deeply about our environment,” he said. “When given an opportunity at the Jamboree, we proved we will all pitch in to do our part.”

**Food Savers**

For 2017, the Jamboree moved to a grocery store food system where Scouts and Venturers selected a recipe, built a shopping list and checked out — all through a smartphone app.

This grocery store method helped reduce food waste.

Scouts didn’t “buy” anything they didn’t want. And any food that wasn’t “bought” by Scouts, including perishable food, never left the grocery stores’ refrigerators. That made it possible to donate that unexpired food to local food banks, instead of some of it going into the trash, as it did in 2013.

More than 160 tons of food was donated to local food banks during the 2017 Jamboree. That’s more than double the 63 tons of donated food in 2013.

Miles hopes these habits of wasting less and recycling more weren’t limited to 10 days in July.

“Our greatest hope is participants will take home what they learned and implement it in their homes and communities and local Scout camps,” he said.

Reprinted from Bryan on Scouting Blog

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**WHY THE BOY SCOUTS ARE FOR GIRLS NOW, TOO**

By Mike Surbaugh

Consider for a moment the benefits of camaraderie, confidence, resilience, trustworthiness, courage and kindness. If we hope to see these attributes in our children and in the future generation of leaders, it is important that we strengthen efforts to instill those values. I will celebrate every institution that seeks to do so -- and that includes the Girl Scouts.

Since its inception in 1912, the Girl Scouts' renowned program has helped empower generations of courageous and confident young women who seek to make the world a better place. It is a strong program that works. I believe in the Girl Scouts just as I believe in Boy Scouts and all character-building
efforts. Nonetheless, we decided it was time to open our doors, and welcome girls into Cub Scouting. This decision does not make our programs co-ed; it provides single-sex programs for girls, in addition to the current programs for boys.

Still, this decision has, not surprisingly, stirred up a fair amount of controversy. My hope is that the conversations taking place will bring more attention to the powerful work all youth-serving organizations do -- but I also want to explain as clearly as I can how and why we made this decision.

First thing's first: We did it because our members requested it. For years, they've been asking us to bring our unique approach to character and leadership development to all members of their families. After all, the cornerstone qualities of the Boy Scouts are invaluable to all, regardless of gender. So we decided it was time to make our iconic programs available for boys and girls.

But the policy change isn't as dramatic as many people seem to think. We've had girls participating in Scouting for generations. It started in 1971, when we invited girls to join our Exploring program and strengthened in 1998 when we introduced Venturing as an adventure program for boys and girls. For years, too, we've been hearing about sisters unofficially participating in Cub Scouting by "shadowing" their brothers. So officially or unofficially, we've been including girls for a long time. And that led us to formally evaluate the matter this year to determine how best to serve today's families.

In the spring, we began formally discussing our program offerings. We started by sharing our idea of expanding our programs to girls with professional staff. Overwhelmingly, they felt it was time to open up the discussion of formalizing enrollment for girls in our programs to our volunteers.

That led us to gauge interest from about 1,000 top volunteer leaders from nearly every council in America. We asked them to vote on whether they'd like to open the discussion to the rest of the volunteers in our organization. Ninety-three percent approved.

During the summer, our local councils began hosting town hall meetings with families across the country. We asked them for their input, and we got more than 11,000 responses. Just like those original 1,000 volunteers, the vast majority said they were in favor of inviting girls and young women to join.

Knowing that so much of our existing membership supported the idea wasn't enough, though. Through market research, we learned that about 90% of families not currently involved in Scouting are highly
interested in a program designed like the one we plan to offer. Many of these families echoed a common theme: They are busier than ever, and they need activities they can do as a family.

But, in addition to all of this, we wanted to know whether our curriculum and program content is relevant for young women. To that end, we asked a panel of educators to make an assessment. They determined it was 100% applicable to girls.

Based on all of these factors, our board voted unanimously that the time to act was now.

We acknowledge and celebrate that boys and girls develop differently, and there are times that single-gender learning is most appropriate. That is why we have outlined a structure that enables us to continue providing single-gender environments -- like dens within Cub Scout packs and a single-gender Scouting program for older girls -- within a broader structure that will allow us to serve the whole family. It will be up to local Cub Scout Packs, parents and chartered partners to choose whether to include boys and girls in family packs or only serve boys or girls; we anticipate a similar structure at the Boy Scouts level.

Let me also be clear about this once more: We know there are many other fantastic youth organizations -- 4H, the YMCA, the Boys and Girls Club, Girl Scouts and more -- that provide character development opportunities for American children. Parents deserve the ability to choose which option is best for their children. For many girls, Girl Scouts will remain the preferable option. We celebrate and support that decision. Why? Because it is a strong, time-tested program that builds character.

Yet it's also true that most families in this country are not currently engaged with any character-building youth development program. There are over 70 million children in America that could benefit from our programs, and today, organizations like ours and others only serve a fraction of them. That is a huge unmet need, but one we can help address. Our country needs and deserves more young people focused on the values that serve as the bedrock of our movement: duty to God and country, with a desire to help other people at all times.

For skeptics that ask if our decision was made to boost membership, consider what membership means. It means that more children can benefit from the Scouting program, which has been proven to build character and leadership. It means that more young people will learn life skills that will empower them to take on challenges with greater resilience. I fervently believe in the strength of our programs, and
their ability to change lives. If this decision allows us to bring the transformational power of our programs to more young people, then, yes, that is our motivation.

We are exhilarated at the possibilities this decision offers, not simply for the Boy Scouts of America, but for the future of our youth members and future generations of leaders.

**CENTRAL REGION OUTDOOR PROGRAM CONFERENCES:**

Time is running out to register for the Central Region Outdoor Program Conferences to be held January 20th in Indianapolis and January 27th in Des Moines. Topics include NCAP update, information on Aquatics, training options for Camp Commissioners and Chaplains, information on the upcoming World Jamboree to be held at The Summit and much, much more.

See the flyer in this issue for more details.

Hope to all of you there!
Once again in 2018, the Region Outdoor Adventure Group is proud to offer 2 conferences that provide you with shorter travel time and date options to help you attend 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 and more session opportunities in 2018.

When registering, you will select 4 sessions (2 in the morning and 2 after lunch) in order to obtain the full session menu and meet regional leaders of Outdoor Adventure. A shorter lunch period in 2018 will enable you to get the most of your day. Session codes are listed also to ease your registration process. Bring a friend and share the experience!

Information regarding the 2019 World Jamboree will be available as well.

Cost is $30.00 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 am local time and the conference opens at 8:45. Closing is around 2:30. Pre-registration is required; for Des Moines by January 16 and Lawrence by January 23. All fees are prepaid; no checks. Walk-in fee is $50.00, cash only. You will be notified by email 2 days prior if cancelled due to inclement weather.

To register, go to:

https://reservations.scouting.org/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x93709abcd

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:
Virgil Reed, Regional Vice President: vreed@cincy.rr.com
Aaron Randolph, Region Outdoor Program Chairman arandjr@mchsi.com
Jeff Stout, Assistant Regional Director jeffrey.stout@scouting.org
2018 Outdoor Conferences Session Menu

9:00 to 11:30:
NCAP Authorization and Assessment workshop: This session is primarily for area and regional leaders of the NCAP program. Code: NCAP

9:00 and 12:15 Sessions:
Aquatic Awards: individual and unit: Discover the many opportunities available to youth and the unit program. Codes: DM1 and DM13; IN1 and IN13.
Train The Trainer: Camp Commissioners/ Chaplains: Join other councils to learn the effective way to present this training in your council. Codes: DM2 and DM14; IN2 and IN14.
Order of the Arrow: embracing a great resource: Since 1915, the Order of the Arrow has been part of Scouting. View new ways it can build council outdoor operations. Codes: DM3 and DM15; IN3 and IN15.
How to get more Cub Scouts outdoors: Youth want to embrace the outdoors. Get first hand ideas on Cub Scout outdoor adventure. Codes: DM4 and DM16; IN4 and IN16.
Selling the Outdoors to a Millennial: It's the next generation of parents. Find out who they are and what they need to have their children get into Scouting. Codes: DM5 and DM17; IN5 and IN17.
Fiix Software: simplify property maintenance: This comprehensive software is a great and economical tool to help manage your ongoing operations. Codes: DM6 and DM18; IN6 and IN18.

10:15 and 1:30 Sessions:
2019 World Jamboree Update: Get the latest information on this historic Scouting event. Codes: DM7 and DM19; IN7 and IN19.
Family based Outdoor Program ideas: Pick up tips and ideas on how families can embrace the outdoors. Codes: DM8 and DM20; IN8 and IN20.
10 easy ways to improve camp facilities: Get 10 simple tips to help showcase your properties. Codes: DM9 and DM21; IN9 and IN21.
T.A.P., helping troops get the most of the outdoors: The Adventure Plan is an online tool. Explore its capabilities and understand how units should embrace it. Codes: DM10 and DM22; IN10 and IN22.
Conservation vs. Outdoor Ethics; the same or different? Find out the parallels and differences on these 2 important program areas. Codes: DM11 and DM23; IN11 and IN23.
Resident Camp Staff Recruitment; getting the best: Get first hand experience from a resident camp director to secure a first rate staff for your resident camp operations. Codes: DM12 and DM24; IN12 and IN 24.
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 ............. Todd Cook  scout@firearmsedu.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
Strategic Analysis & Facilities
Management Task Force ........ John Makowski  johnmakowski@live.com

Editor: Dan Gille  dcgille@gmail.com
Special Thanks to Karen Gille and Keith Christopher for proofreading and layout.

Future Publication Date: Spring 2017
Greetings Scouters. I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and that you’ve had a great holiday season.

As we begin the New Year we have many exciting opportunities ahead. In January we will have 2 Outdoor Conferences – the first on January 20, in Des Moines, IA, and the following weekend, January 27, in Indianapolis. Here is the link to the registration site:

https://reservations.scouting.org/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x93709abcd

As usual, the spring will be busy with plans and preparation for summer, starting with NCAP training. In addition, if you are interested in improving your local council program- either for summer camp or for year round offerings – contact the team leads listed in this newsletter. They have experts ready and willing to come to your council and your camp to lead specialized training for you.

Another highlight next summer will be spending a week at the Philmont Training Center. The course offerings are available at the PTC site. This is an outstanding way to get specialized training in a wide variety of subjects, meet Scouters from around the country and enjoy a special week with your family. This is one of the best locations to enjoy a week of family, friendship and fellowship, with highly qualified faculty for each course.

And while you’re filling in your calendar, flip the page to July of 2019. The Summit Bechtel Reserve will be the site for the next World Scout Jamboree, co-hosted by the Canadian Scout Association, the Scout Association of Mexico and the Boy Scouts of America. The registration site opened in late fall of 2017. Leaders will be needed for the troops that will represent the Central Region, and a wide variety of staff positions will need to be filled similar to what was needed at this past year’s National Jamboree. I look forward to working with many of you there!

Thank you all for your outstanding efforts to improve outdoor program throughout the Central Region! It is a pleasure working with leaders like you who do your best.

YITSOG
(Yours In The Spirit Of Gilwell)
Aaron Randolph
National Adventures Group
Outdoor Program Support - Central Region Chair
aranjr@mchsi.com
(H) 319-377-0497
(C) 319-721-6733