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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This issue of *The Promise* marks the start of the 7th year of the Central Region Outdoor Program Support Committee’s newsletter. Our goal has been to provide up to date information on Outdoor Programming to local council professionals and volunteers to make it easier for you to deliver The Promise of Scouting.

2019 will be a critical year for Scouting. We will be welcoming young women to all levels of Scouting. All of us will need to Be Prepared to offer that “top of the mountain” experience to these new members and their parents. We know that they will expect nothing less than your best, every time they come to a den meeting, pack meeting, troop meeting, or camping experience at your council camps.

Is your council ready?

This January, we are again offering two Outdoor Program Conferences, one in Des Moines and one in Indianapolis. Our focus this year is on helping you and your council get ready for this new direction in Scouting. There is registration information in this issue. Make plans to attend and bring your friends.

Is your council prepared for new and exciting marketing efforts to promote the new direction of Scouting? Visit the BSA Brand Center for some great new marketing materials & ideas.

The 4th biennial Outdoor Ethics Conference was held at Theodore Nash Scout Reservation in Bonner Springs, KS, on October 16-21, 2018. The conference was chaired by Central Region Outdoor Ethics Coordinator Toby Green. Approximately 120 participants, staff and guest speakers attended the weeklong event. All 4 regions were represented, as well as the Transatlantic Council, who had representatives from the UK and Belgium at the conference.

Pre-Conference courses were attended by 70 participants and 11 instructors. The courses ran from Tuesday night through Thursday afternoon and included the following:

- Lead Instructor Development workshop
- Thread Lightly! Master Tread Trainer training
- Outdoor Ethics Advocate training
- William T. Hornaday Award Adviser training

Conference highlights from the Friday and Saturday sessions included:

- Address from Frank Reigelman - BSA Staff Liaison for the Outdoor Programs Committee
- Keynote address by Al Lambert – BSA Assistant Chief Scout Executive
- The Outdoor Ethics Task force is now the Outdoor Ethics Sub-committee
- 17 presenters presented 16 topics over the two days in 12 scheduled sessions – all topics presented twice to prevent conflict with other presenters
- Outside presenters from the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics and Tread Lightly!
- Training displays used by attending Master Educators and Trainers
- The Outdoor Ethics display used at National and World Jamborees.

The 2020 National Outdoor Ethics Conference will be held in the Occoneechee Council at Camp Durant in Carthage, NC, from November 10-14, 2020.

For updated information on all BSA Outdoor Ethics subjects, council contact information, resources and future training courses please go to http://outdoorethics-bsa.org

Don Reinicker
2019 NCAP AUTHORIZATIONS

All notices have been distributed for the 2019 Authorizations. If you still haven’t received your material, please let me know. As we have 20 councils seeking Authorizations this round, we’ve worked to recruit additional Authorizations Writers for the Central Region team and I want to thank them all for their contributions to strengthening camping in the Region. The council’s seeking Authorization in 2019 are:

Area 1: Northern Lights, Gateway Area
Area 3: Illowa, Hawkeye Area
Area 4: Great Trail, Buckeye, Lake Erie, Mountaineer Area, Buckskin
Area 5: Mid-Iowa, Coronado Area, Ozark Trails, Heart of America, Mid-America, Great Rivers
Area 6: Anthony Wayne Area, Sagamore, Dan Beard, Tecumseh
Area 7: Potawatomi Area

Please support your local council’s efforts to complete their applications by the **April 30** filing deadline. There may be many ways that you could help. Check with your council’s NCAP Chair

A reminder that a complete Request for Authorization to Operate includes the following documents:

- Council Application for Authorization to Operate, BSA form 430-079.
- Council Sustainability Data Sheet, BSA form 430-090.
- Camp Sustainability Data Sheet, BSA form 430-940 – one per property.
- Camp Facility Evaluation Tool (CFET) – one per property.
- Camp Continuous Improvement Plan; both Strategic and Annual plans are required.

If you represent a council who is making an application this year, please reach out to your Authorization Writer with any questions or concerns you may have. The NCAP Committee and your council have the same goal in mind – strengthening the outdoor program offered to the youth of the Central Region. If you have questions for me, I can be reached via email at dhunt@huntel.net or cell at 402.533.8853.

**Dan Hunt**

NCAP Chairman

Central Region, BSA
I am writing to you today in anticipation of news reports that will speculate about the BSA’s financial position. We have an important duty, and an incredible opportunity, to focus as an organization on keeping children safe, supported and protected, and preparing youth for their futures through our nation’s foremost program of character development and values-based leadership training.

To do so in perpetuity, we are working with experts to explore all options available to ensure that the local and national programming of the Boy Scout of America continues uninterrupted. We have a social and moral responsibility to fairly compensate victims who suffered abuse during their time in Scouting, and we also have an obligation to carry out our mission to serve youth, families and local communities through our programs.

We care deeply about all victims of child sex abuse, and we are steadfast in our belief that one incident of child abuse is one too many. We sincerely apologize to anyone who was harmed during their time in our programs. As you all know, we have always taken care of victims – we believe them, we believe in fairly compensating them, and we have paid for unlimited counseling, by a provider of their choice, regardless of the amount of time that has passed since an instance of abuse. Throughout our history we have taken proactive steps to help victims heal and prevent future abuse. I want to stress that at no time in our history have we knowingly allowed a sexual predator to work with youth, and we always seek to act swiftly when alerted to abuse allegations.

Please know that these matters continue to have the full attention of the highest levels of our organization, and we will communicate transparently as there are developments or updates to share. I wanted to update you today due to the news speculation, and I want to assure you that our daily mission will continue, and that there are no imminent actions or immediate decisions expected.

Thank you for your continued support of the Boy Scouts of America.

Michael B. Surbaugh
Chief Scout Executive
Be Prepared.
For Scouts BSA.

Do...
...share your passion for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA)!
We believe the BSA offers the best program for youth - but we also believe it's important for youth to be involved in the programs that are right for them.

Don’t...
...compare the programs of the BSA to other youth programs.

Do...
...refer all questions about GSUSA programs to the local GSUSA council or website.

Do...
...refer all inquiries from media outlets (TV, radio, newspapers, online) to the BSA public relations team by email at pr@scouting.org

A Scout is Courteous
The Boy Scouts of America applauds the work of the GSUSA in service to our nation’s youth and is committed to respecting the organization's rights and programs.

Remember...
...girls who are in Scouts BSA aren’t members of the Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA). Avoid using the word “girl” before “Scouts.” This includes fliers, in conversation, social media, etc. For example, you shouldn’t say, “Let’s have that group of Scouts BSA girl Scouts line up.”

Do...
...remember that the BSA and GSUSA are separate organizations. If those around you say or suggest otherwise, politely correct them!

Don’t...
...use names, programs, marks, logos, images, or awards of the GSUSA or combine them with those of the BSA.

www.scouting.org

Boy Scouts of America

SCOUT ME IN” (registered trademark) when using terms like “Scout Me In” whether in print, social media, or digital.
COPE AND CLIMBING

Training and Conference Opportunities

During the Central Region Outdoor Program Committee (CROPS) conferences on January 19, 2019, at the Maytag Center in Des Moines, IA, and January 26 at Camp Belzar in Lawrence, IN, the COPE section will be presenting information on incorporating STEM into your COPE/Climbing Program. We encourage you to attend either conference, the same information will be presented at both conferences.

The Pony Express council will be hosting a Program Manager Training and COPE/Climbing conference at Camp Geiger on March 28 – 31, 2019. The PM class will start at 9:00 am, Thursday, March 28, and conclude before noon on the 30th. The COPE/Climbing conference will start at 9:00 am, Saturday, March 30, and conclude before noon on the 31st.

The Gateway Council will host a Program Manager Training and COPE/Climbing conference at Camp Decorah on April 11 – 14, 2019. The PM class will start at 9:00 am, Thursday, April 11, and conclude before noon on the 13th. The COPE/Climbing conference will start at 9:00 am, Saturday, April 13, and conclude before noon on the 14th.

More details and registration information for both conferences will be available in January 2019.

John Harrits

2018 AQUATICS WORKSHOP

Over 60 Scouters from all four regions descended on Islamorada, Florida, for the Biennial BSA Aquatics Workshop. This four day, hands-on workshop was held September 26 – 30, at BSA’s Florida High Adventure Sea Base.

The goal of these meetings is to bring the BSA aquatics community up to date with changes and current activities associated with the BSA aquatics program, as well as receiving input from the scouting community to the BSA National Aquatics Sub-committee for consideration and future action.

In addition to many informative and interactive sessions, representatives from three local councils gave very engaging presentations, illustrating some of the council’s best practices in BSA Aquatics under the theme of “The Future is Already Here: Camp and Council Aquatics Presentations”:

NCAC Aquatics Committee and Year Around Aquatics Program – Julia Farr
North Florida Council Aquatics Camps – Jane Kilby
Keynote speaker, Al Lambert, Assistant Chief Scout Executive and Director of Outdoor Adventures (the self-proclaimed director of fun), was on hand to share part of his vision of where council’s facilities and programs need to head to appeal to family scouting. He encouraged councils to design facilities and programs for family scouting to include “a little bit of the national parks, a little bit of KOA’s and a little bit of Disney”.

Dr. David Vaughn, Senior Scientist and Program Manager of the Coral Restoration Program from Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium, gave a very engaging presentation on his research in coral reef restoration and the partnership with the BSA. His pioneering work in micro fragmentation and fusion methods of corals has rapidly accelerated the pace at which coral reefs can be restored.

This collaboration, combining Mote’s leadership in coral reef research and restoration with BSA’s Marine STEM Adventure program, will enhance Mote’s existing partnership with BSA while benefiting coral reefs and encouraging young people to excel as ocean stewards. Florida Sea Base’s Brinton Center will begin construction on coral reef tanks to grow new corals and within a year will be growing coral under Mote Marine Laboratory’s guidance. Scouts will then support the "out planting" of the coral to restore the Florida Barrier Reef.

Over the course of the workshop, opportunities for a number of on-the-water skill instruction sessions were provided to attendees. These ranged from Advanced Stand Up Paddleboarding, Discover Scuba, Power Squadron Boating Simulator, PADI’s Virtual Reality Scuba Diving Simulator, Rowing, Kayaking, Sailing, and Snorkeling.

Event sponsors were on hand to demonstrate and try new and innovative products:

- **Bellyak** - hand powered, lay on kayak
- **Corcl’s** - round durable boat for 8-15 age kids
- **Wgwag** - a stand on, self-propelled boat with side to side motion
- **Key Log Rolling** - lightweight synthetic log with training paddles for log rolling
- **Rave Sports** – inflatable aquatic play structures

Everyone reported having a wonderful time “testing and researching” this new equipment, braving the warm weather, blue skies, and tepid waters.

Even some manatees were curious about the innovative equipment and came in for a closer look.
At the end of the four days of fun, fellowship and sharing of ideas, all left Sea Base stating they had a
great experience at the workshop, brimming with ideas to take back to their councils and already
looking forward to the next workshop in two years.

If your council was unable to have someone attend this year, check out all the presentations at the
Aquatics Program webpage:

https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/aquatics/

1. PowerPoint update of Aquatics Activity Awards and Aquatics Supervision
2. North Florida Council Aquatics Camp
3. Red Cross Aquatics Updates
4. National Capital Area Council Aquatics Programs flyer
5. Sea Scouts Today presentation
6 24th World Scout Jamboree Aquatics Update
7. American Canoe Association Paddlesports Statistics and Updates

There are also some still relevant sessions from the 2016 Aquatics Workshop at the same link.

**Rowboat Review at the Aquatics Workshop**

Measured by the number earned, Swimming merit badge was the second most popular merit badge in
both 2011 and 2017. Over that same period, Canoeing merit badge slipped in popularity from number
19 to number 22. However, Rowing merit badge dropped in ranking from 42nd to 61st.

Rowing has long been a lost art with respect to practical transportation, and there are likely multiple
reasons the merit badge has dropped in popularity. Nevertheless, Scout age youth suitably introduced to
the sport enjoy it and gain coordination and boat sense useful in other endeavors. The decline in
popularity is perhaps tied more to opportunity and promotion rather than interest.

Many Rowing merit badges are earned at Scout BSA resident camps, but quality rowing programs at BSA
camps are in decline. Canoeing merit badge is currently offered at approximately 98% of camps,
whereas rowing is offered at 78%. Even though over three quarters of camps still offer the merit badge,
many do so with clunky boats in poor repair. That in turn is not as much a maintenance issue as a lack of
affordable, suitable boats to replace fleets that are often decades old.

Prior to the recent Aquatics Workshop, members of the BSA Aquatics Subcommittee conducted an
online review of several boats that might be suitable for BSA camps. Criteria include price, durability,
ease of maintenance, capacity, rowing positions, and expected handling characteristics. Early on, sliding
seat models, including rigs for canoes and SUPs, were moved down the list due to price and
maintenance. Nine fixed seat craft were reviewed in detail. The two most promising were purchased and
tested during the workshop.

The chosen craft are marketed as square stern canoes, but are actually designed for use with small
outboards. They are more streamlined than traditional camp rowboats, but are very similar in design to
high-end rowing wherries. They both handle well and have sufficient beam to accommodate single and
tandem rowing positions without outriggers. The fiberglass boat retails for about $800. The aluminum boat retails for about $1500. Additional details will be provided in a forthcoming communication.

**Fiberglass**
- Length: 15’ 10”
- Beam: 43”
- Weight: 87 lbs.
- Capacity: 775 lbs.

**Aluminum**
- Length: 17’
- Beam: 44”
- Weight: 113 lbs.
- Capacity: 1000 lbs.
AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION: VIDEO RESOURCES

In August, filming began for the ACA’s Youth Paddle Smart Web TV Series, a project funded through a grant administered by the U.S. Coast Guard. The Youth Paddle Smart Web TV Series caters to beginning youth paddlers and their parents in an effort to focus their recreational boating career in a safe direction. The goal of the series is to provide critical and immediate information to aid in making smarter decisions and stay safe on the water. The series will be distributed using grassroots initiatives and social media outlets, which are known to be extremely popular among the youth of today. The project is two-pronged to address age and developmental learning styles of youth. The project will produce:

Video Series 1: Children 5-10 years of age and parents
- 20 focused informational video episodes
- 30 to 60 seconds in length

Video Series 2: Youth 11-17 years of age
- 40 focused and in-depth informational and skills-based episodes
- 1 to 3 minutes in length

The Youth Paddle Smart Web TV Series is now available on the ACA web page at: https://www.americancanoe.org/page/Ed_videos

Existing Videos: A list of current videos, with links, is found at: https://www.americancanoe.org/page/Ed_videos
https://www.youtube.com/user/AmericanCanoe1/featured provides an alternate link to the ACA YouTube Channel.

Here are just a few of the existing titles you might find helpful:
- Top 5 Canoeing Tips
- Canoeing-River Hazards and Safety
- Golden Rules of Recreational Kayaking
- How to Re-enter a Sit Inside Kayak
- Choosing the Right SUP
- Stand Up Paddling-Rules of the Road
- Fundamentals of Lifejackets for Paddlers
- Lifejackets Float. Do You?

Teaching paddle sports in under 10 seconds... is it possible? The clips in the Web TV series run from 30 seconds to a few minutes each. The ACA is also working on a series of short videos that loop through the same skill component every 10 seconds. The ability to quickly watch a skill sequence repeat itself several times in succession on a mobile device will provide a new and different learning opportunity. Stay tuned for release dates.
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 to and congratulate all those that #DARETODO, especially the Central Region Area Fishing Leads and their assembled teams: BSA Certified Angling Instructors, BSA Angler Educators, and Fishing, Fly Fishing and Fish & Wildlife Management Merit Badge Counselors. Thanks also to Summer Camp Program Counselors, fellow Scouters, family and friends who supported Central Region BSA Fishing Programs offered in 2018. GREAT JOB!

I would like to thank Steve Klubertanz for his dedicated service as the Central Region Area 7 Fishing lead over the last 7 years. His dedication to the Scouts and Scouters, delivering quality angler education, activities, and support to the BSA Fishing Programs, and training BSA Certified Angling Instructors and BSA Angler Educators has been truly inspirational. Thank you Steve for a job well done!

I would also like to introduce our newest Central Region Area 7 Fishing lead, Doug Lindsay, a long time Scouter and BSA Certified Angling Instructor and CAI Course Director. We look forward to working with Doug in the coming fishing season and beyond.

I am also very thankful for the opportunity to serve our youth with quality angling programs. Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, 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. In the end, we have built a strong foundation for a lifetime hobby filled with enjoyment and fun, meant to be shared with families far into the future.

Looking forward to 2019-2020:

We are pleased to announce that the following training courses will be facilitated by the BSA National Fishing Committee, with a focus on providing enhancements to your BSA Fishing Programs. These courses will cover Cub Scout, Scout BSA, and Venturing Fishing Programs held at the Unit, District, and Council Level. We believe the course delivers an understanding of the mission and vision of Outdoor Programs-Fishing, assisting in your efforts to deliver the Promise. You will learn age based and skill appropriate fishing tools and techniques for your scouts, ranging from the Cane Pole to Fly Fishing. The course highlights best practices on content delivery, in both the classroom and the field. Course graduates will become BSA Certified Angling Instructors (Training Code CS61). FISH ON!

2019 scheduled Central Region Certified Angling Instructor Training Courses:

- Greater St. Louis Area Council  CR Area #3  March 29 - 31
- W.D. Boyce Council  CR Area #3  April 12 - 14
• Great Rivers Council  CR Area #5  March 8 - 10
• Mid Iowa Council  CR Area #5  April 5 - 7
• Anthony Wayne Council  CR Area #6  April 12 - 14
• Black Swamp Council  CR Area #6  May 10 - 12

For additional details visit:  www(bsafishing.com

If you would like to schedule a BSA Certified Angling Instructor Course in your Council please contact Central Region Outdoor Programs - Fishing Chairman  Michael Brand

Enhance your Recruitment and Retention Programs through Fishing
Councils have an opportunity to utilize purchasing programs developed by quality fishing tackle manufacturers, Future Fisherman Foundation and BSA National Fishing Committee. To learn more about these purchasing program offerings, contact your Area Fishing Lead today!

Area #1  John Woodhall  Area #2  Dennis Festerling  Area #3  Bob Quam
Area #4  Ron Killian  Area #5  Harold Kerns  Area #6  James Ridgeway
Area #7  Doug Lindsay

Fishing: the Gateway for Girls to Scouting!
I look forward to meeting many of you at the Central Region Outdoor Conference in January. I am scheduled to provide a presentation that was made at the Philmont Training Center in September that explores Fishing as the Gateway for Girls to Scouting. I hope that you plan to attend this highly informative session.
MEET THE CROPS TEAM!

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Editor: Dan Gille  dcgille@gmail.com

Special Thanks to Karen Gille proofreading and layout.

Future Publication Date: Spring, 2019
Happy New Year!

If you haven’t already done so, mark your calendars now and make your reservations to attend one of the two Central Region Outdoor Conferences to be held in 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 B.P. was your Scoutmaster doesn’t matter. Bring a car full of your closest Scouting friends because we’re all learners since the program and the ways we deliver it are constantly changing. Our sign up is all electronic again this year, and registration links are included on the flyer in this issue.

Change is one of the constants in life, and Scouting is certainly evidence of this. Look around at the units you work with, the District or Council activities you help lead, etc. The one thing that does not change is the need for youth to have positive role models, and for them to be exposed to a life changing program that focuses on character development, citizenship training and personal fitness. As we enter a new year for Scouting, I challenge you to keep the needs of youth as your primary motivator and focus. The world is always going to be full of noise, which in today’s world too often is confused with news. Let us all continue to focus on providing the very best program to youth that we can, because we all know in our hearts Scouting is a life changing experience.

For those who nominated a fellow Scouter for the Silver Antelope Award, the selection committee meets at the winter Central Region Executive Board meeting in February. Selections are made at that time and the recipients are announced shortly thereafter. Presentation of the Silver Antelope Award is done during the National Annual Meeting in May.

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 still 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
2019 Central Region 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 to help you attend and learn how to better serve youth in outdoors. These conferences are open to any Scouter at all levels with an interest in Outdoor Programs, NCAP, and Resident Camp. There will be sessions exclusive to Cub Scouts in the outdoors and more session opportunities in 2019.

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 2019 World Scout Jamboree will be available as well.

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 13 and Lawrence by January 20. 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 19 – Des Moines, IA:  https://reservations.scouting.org/profile/111892

   January 26 – Lawrence, IN:  https://reservations.scouting.org/profile/111911

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@cinci.rr.com
Aaron Randolph, Region Outdoor Program Chair  aranjr@mchsi.com
David Truax, Area 2 Director  david.truax@scouting.org