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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The Outdoor Programs Group in conjunction with the Aquatics Task Force announces the release of revised BSA Lifeguard requirements and the companion BSA Lifeguard Instructor Manual. The updated application and instructor manual are effective May 1, 2017, and may be accessed immediately in the Aquatics Resources section of Scouting.org. The previous BSA Lifeguard requirements may continue to be used through August 31, 2017. After this date, all applications for BSA Lifeguard and BSA Lifeguard Instructor must be submitted using the new requirements. All BSA Lifeguard certificates are valid for two years.

The new BSA Lifeguard Instructors Manual incorporates several changes in response to the industry’s evolving standard of care and training requirements. Among the changes are:

- revised course requirements
- updated video references
- rescue technique improvements
- increased emphasis on emergency action plans (EAP’s)
- new ‘Unprofessional Lifeguard’ content
- new skill drills
- updated spinal injury management, inline stabilization, and extrication techniques.

Overall the course length has grown from 25 ½ hours to 27 hours.

The revised program and instructor manual continues to reflect the partnership between the BSA and the American Red Cross (ARC) by utilizing training materials produced for the ARC Lifeguarding program and released in January 2017. Revised training materials may be purchased at https://www.redcrossstore.org/. Councils who have an Authorized Provider Agreement with the American Red Cross and corresponding ARC Lifeguarding instructors may access participant manuals and training videos online at no charge.

Terry Budd
Aquatics Task Force
NCAP REPORT

Central Region NCAP Committee

At its recent business meeting in Orlando (as part of the National Annual Meeting), the Central Region appointed Mr. Dan Hunt (currently Area V President) as the NCAP Co-Chair. Dan will be finishing his duties as Area President over the next several months during which time he will be transitioning into a shared role in the leadership of the regional NCAP Committee. We would like to officially welcome Dan into this role and look forward to his leadership.

2017 Camp Assessment Trainings have been held with 533 Assessors trained during 27 Area Sessions. Our regional Assessors will be visiting a total of 174 resident camps this summer. All of the Central Region Area Assessment Chairs have done a fantastic job getting these training sessions completed and helping our trained assessors be prepared to visit camps.

Central Region has 13 councils applying for Authorization to Operate their camps during this 5th cycle of the 1st round of the NCAP process. Those councils are by area:

Area 1: Twin Valley, Gamehaven
Area 2: None
Area 3: Northeast Iowa, W.D. Boyce
Area 4: Allohak, Muskingum Valley, Ohio River Valley
Area 5: Cornhuskers, Quivira
Area 6: Erie Shores, LaSalle
Area 7: Pathways to Adventure, Glaciers Edge

Interim Reports for those councils who went through the NCAP Application for Authorization to Operate during the 2nd cycle (2014) were due on March 1st.

This year’s 5th cycle of NCAP Applications completes the 1st round of the NCAP process. The second set of cycles will begin in 2018.

The NCAP session at Philmont in September will focus on the direction of NCAP over the next 5-10 years.

Denis Ward, CR NCAP Chair
NATIONAL OUTDOOR AWARD

Do you enjoy camping under the stars, rafting a whitewater river, or hitting the trail afoot, on a bike, or even on a horse? Can you pitch a tent, find your way, and bandage an ankle using only materials in your pack? Are you prepared to do any of these in rain, snow, sleet, or heat? If so, the National Outdoor Awards are for you. There is nothing virtual about these awards—you can earn them only by demonstrating knowledge and experience in the outdoors. So, if you are a Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Sea Scout, or Venturer, and think you are tough and disciplined enough to hike or ride the miles, camp the nights, run the rivers or lakes, or do the work to conserve the land, then read on and see if the National Outdoor badges or possibly the National Medal for Outdoor Achievement could be for you!

When a Scout excels in outdoor participation, there are awards to show for it! This program, conceived by the BSA's National Camping Task Force, includes a series of six badges designed to recognize a Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Sea Scout, or Venturer who has exemplary knowledge and experience in performing high-level outdoor activities.

The award consists of up to six emblem segments positioned around the perimeter of a beautiful center emblem. All are embroidered in full color. The segments represent six areas of emphasis: Camping, Aquatics, Conservation, Hiking, Riding, and Adventure, with rigorous requirements to earn each segment. The center emblem features an outdoor scene with fleur-de-lis and the words "National Outdoor Awards."

The six National Outdoor Awards badges recognize a Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, Sea Scout, or Venturer who demonstrates knowledge and experience in camping, aquatics, conservation, hiking, riding, or adventure. Youth earning the National Outdoor Awards badges have demonstrated that they are knowledgeable, safe, and comfortable in the outdoor activity covered by the badge.

NATIONAL OUTDOOR CONFERENCE 2017

PHILMONT SCOUT RANCH, SEPTEMBER 27–OCTOBER 1, 2017

WHAT IS IT?

The National Outdoor Conference is Scouting’s largest gathering of volunteers and professionals charged with delivering the world’s greatest outdoor program for youth! It’s four days of elective sessions, outstanding keynote speakers, outdoor vendor exhibits, clean mountain air, backcountry excursions, special program opportunities, great music, and fellowship with Scouting’s top outdoor leaders. Join fellow Scouters and
outdoor enthusiasts from across the country to learn new methods, share ideas, and check out the latest in outdoor gear and programs. This is the place to be if you are involved in any way with outdoor programs.

WHERE IS IT?

Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, New Mexico—the world’s largest camp

WHEN IS IT?

Wednesday, September 27 through Sunday, October 1, 2017; on-site registration opens at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday followed by the conference exhibit venue from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. A traditional Philmont barbecue will be served in the exhibit area, giving participants a chance to maximize their time with the vendors.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Anyone and everyone involved in national, region, area, council, district, and unit outdoor program delivery. That means Scout executives, directors of support services, program directors, rangers, camp directors, council presidents, and council program vice-presidents. Anyone who chairs a committee on council and district camping, conservation, aquatics, COPE/climbing, or shooting sports should also plan to be there, as should properties chairpersons and other volunteers or professionals responsible for delivery of outdoor programs.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Michael Surbaugh is the 13th Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America, headquartered in Irving, Texas. After graduating from Salem College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in youth agency administration, Mike chose Scouting for his career. He served as a district executive in Jacksonville, Florida starting in 1984, and then served as a senior district executive and program director in Syracuse, New York. Mike then became field director, director of development, and director of field service in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He later served as Scout executive in South Dakota (Sioux Falls), Wisconsin (Appleton), and Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh). From Pittsburgh, he was promoted to BSA group director at the National Service Center in 2014, a position he held until being named Chief Scout Executive in 2015. Mike is an Eagle Scout and an Order of the Arrow Vigil Honor member and has completed Wood Badge. He also is proud to have served as camp director and a member of summer camp staffs for 12 years. When he is not working to advance the BSA’s mission, Mike and his wife, Lisa, spend their free time visiting and hiking in the U.S. national parks and riding their Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

REGISTRATION FEES AND HOUSING INFORMATION

Attendees can choose one of three options for conference fees and housing:

$350.00 CONFERENCE FEE/ROOFED HOUSING AT PHILMONT—Includes four nights lodging in a dormitory or duplex with up to four people per room, meals, conference gift, and supplies. Sheets, blankets, pillows, and towels are provided.
$275.00 CONFERENCE FEE/TENT HOUSING AT PHILMONT—Includes four nights lodging in a large two-person wall tent with electricity and camp-style bed and mattress plus meals, conference gift, and supplies. Sheets, blankets, pillows, and towels are available. Modern shower houses are located nearby. You may also bring your own sleeping bag.

$250.00 CONFERENCE FEE/OFF-SITE HOUSING—
Select your own off-site housing. Includes all meals, conference gift, and supplies. Visit www.cimarronnm.com for local lodging options.

EARLY DEPARTURE PLAN—Participants who depart on Saturday after lunch will receive a special pricing discount.

EARLY ARRIVALS: The early arrival extra fee is $50 for indoor housing/$25 for tent housing (in addition to the National Outdoor Conference fee).

A late fee of $50 will be added in each category for those registering after August 31, 2017. A $100 cancellation fee will apply if conference reservations are cancelled after September 15, 2017.

LINK TO REGISTRATION

https://reservations.scouting.org/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x89358a72b

NATIONAL CAMPING TASK FORCE

The National Camping Task Force met in Orlando, prior to the start of the 2017 National Meeting.

- An update was shared on The Adventure Planning Guide(TAP)
  - Been running for a year
  - One stop shop for planning a troop based activity or adventure
  - Needs more promotion
  - It can be found at: http://bsatap.org/

- The project to update the Historic Trails Directory is ongoing
  - 42 states are represented with 229 trails listed
  - The list will be updated as more information becomes available

- Camping Data Analysis
  - The project has attempted to correlate until level data from JTE to membership growth and advancement. So far, the data is inconclusive.
  - A discussion of how to involve Scoutbook in gathering more data on unit level camping activity occurred.
  - The overall goal of the project is to promote and support outdoor activity at all levels of Scouting

Dan Gille - National Camping Task Force
SILVER BUFFALO NOMINATION

Now is the time to consider nominating a Scouter for the Silver Buffalo award.

When submitting the nomination form, please include as much correct and relevant information about the nominee as possible. Be sure the nominee's name is spelled correctly, and highlight all contributions to youth inside and outside of Scouting. Additional endorsement letters from specific areas may be included, provided they feature detailed explanations of the nominee's contributions.

Nominations are no longer kept for two additional years for consideration if the nominee is not selected. Nominations must be submitted annually. Also, incomplete nominations will not be considered.

More information can be found at:

MARKETING TO MILLENNIALS

Here is some interesting research on Millennials:

- 86% of millennials say: “Fans have at least some ownership of the things they’re fans of.”
- 70% of millennials say: “I choose activities that will give me things to post.”
- 70% of millennials say: “We filter our social media feeds to only see what we want to see.”
- 61% of millennials say: “I can influence popular culture.”
- 51% of millennials say: “Messaging is just as personal as talking in person.”
- 50% of millennials say: “Someone should make a movie about my life.”
- 48% of millennials say: “I feel like I know my favorite celebrity.”
- 33% of millennials say: “There isn’t really such a thing as ‘the truth.’”
- 32% of millennials say: “Brands are as honest as people try to be.”
- 29% of millennials admit: “I post things that make my life look better than it really is.”
- Millennials says it’s okay to publicly share mental illness (70%), coming out (70%), going to rehab (55%), and having a miscarriage (50%).

More can be found here:
https://www.fastcompany.com/40406542/exclusive-viacoms-new-study-is-a-marketers-blueprint-for-millennials
MEET THE CROPS TEAM!

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Cub Camping Resource .......... Jim Forrest  jcforrest@comcast.net
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Management Task Force ........ John Makowski  johnmakowski@live.com
CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS
Aaron Randolph  aranjr@mchsi.com

Good evening Campers! It’s the time of the year we once again roll the sleeping bags, stuff the packs and head for camp. Many of you have already spent time in one of the many National Camp School programs operated throughout the Central Region and are now helping your local council prepare for another exciting summer camp season. Thank you to every one of you for the countless hours you’ll devote yet again to putting the outing in Scouting! Without your efforts the program would not be the same.

There is another group that began their summer prep several months ago – the NCAP teams that will be descending on every Day Camp, Overnight Camp, Scout resident camp, and High Adventure facility throughout the Region. This is our quality control team and they need our help. Think about the veteran Scout leaders you know who have a passion for Scout camping and outdoor program. These are the people we need on our NCAP teams. Talk to the team leads in your council and recommend some of these veteran Scouters you think should be invited to join the team. All team members must be approved first by the local council so please follow protocol and let the council make the invitation. This is a great way to use their years of experience to help improve program for our youth. (And the best part is it takes less than an hour per week – no kidding!)

Another BIG event is just around the corner – the 2017 National Scout Jamboree, July 19 to 28, at the Summit in West Virginia. The last count on participants is close to 24,900 youth and over 5,200 staff. Included in these numbers are close to 900 Scouts from 81 foreign Scout Associations. This is nearly 3 times the largest foreign participation we’ve ever had a BSA National Jamboree, and will serve as a warm up for the 2019 World Scout Jamboree. That event will also be held at the Summit. Look for details and promotion to begin in earnest starting this August. Preliminary plans were reviewed at the BSA National Meeting in Orlando, FL, last month. The Central Region will be allotted 42 troops – the equivalent of 6 per Area. If you or someone you know is interested either in staffing or in helping with contingent leadership, keep an eye out for specifics from Jon Pederson, Central Region coordinator for the event.

I wish you all a very safe and enjoyable summer of Scouting adventures, where ever that may take you. If you’re still looking for a fall trip, Philmont still has openings in many of their conferences through September and October. Get details at the Philmont website: www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc.aspx

YITSOG
(Yours in The Spirit of Gilwell)

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