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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FISHING

Council Summer Camp Fishing Program Opportunity

It goes without saying that you know the importance of delivering a high quality, high value, and dynamic program at Boy Scout summer camp. Camp staff, Scouting professionals, and volunteers invest hundreds, if not thousands of hours every year into each and every camp in an effort to deliver “The Promise” to our youth members. The Fishing Task Force takes this very seriously. We want the best possible experience for the Scouts, especially those in the fishing programs at camp.

We could discuss the statistics of fishing programs and their value, but I’ll let reality speak for itself. All of us have seen youth fishing at our camps, both in and out of merit badge program time. Scouts love to fish, young and old. More importantly, Scouts love to catch fish. Who hasn’t seen the thrill and smile of a youth when they catch that first fish? That experience is the metric we use on the Fishing Task Force to judge our success. We want every single youth to experience that joy. What is the cost to your camp and BSA when that amazing success is turned into a disappointment?

We have a proposition for every single Scout Camp in the Central Region. Our team of volunteers would like to help you pass the joy and heritage of fishing on to our youth. We will be asking local BSA Certified Angling Instructors and volunteers to adopt your camp. Those volunteers will come on site and evaluate the situation at the camp including staff training, fishing equipment, shoreline access, angler catch rates, overall program design, development, and deployment. It’s not a test, it’s so we know how to help.

Once we are done, we will give each camp a report, with recommendations AND the contact information for volunteers that will be willing to assist you to make those recommendations a reality. Volunteer hands to assist with maintenance on equipment, conduct staff training, shoreline enhancement, fish habitat construction, or whatever is required for your success. Also, camps that achieve the highest level of evaluation will be eligible to be designated as a “BSA Fish Camp”. We haven’t got a logo yet, but it’ll be cool!

What do we need from you? Simply your willingness to let us help, and a desire to deliver “The Promise” to Scouts. Camps interested in taking advantage of this offer should contact your Area Fishing Lead listed below.

Area 1 - John Woodhall jawiii@charter.net
Area 2 - Dennis Festerling dennis@festerling.net
Area 3 - Robert Quam bobcatd2@hometel.com
Area 4 - David Ross dtross910@gmail.com
Area 5 - John View III jview@journagan.com
Area 6 - James Ridgeway james.ridgeway@aes.com
Area 7 - Steve Klubertanz steveklubertanz@gmail.com

Or you may contact me Michael Brand – C.R.O.P.S. – Fishing Chairman michaelbrand314@gmail.com
Jamboree 2017 - Fishing Program Opportunity

Fishing Programs will be front and center at the Jamboree. Our Program Areas will be centered near the Main Stage Area, and will include diverse Angler Education Program offerings. Each program will be designed to educate, demonstrate, guide and enable Scouts and Scouter in various Angler Skills:

**Fly Fishing**
- Fly Tying – Tools, Materials, and Fly Selection
- Fly Casting – Roll Cast, Forward/Back Cast, False Cast
- Fly Fishing – Line Control, Hooking and Landing a Fish

**Spin Fishing**
- Closed and Open Face Spinning Reels
- Casting – Flip, Pitch, and “Jedi” Cast
- Fishing- Line Control, Hooking and Landing a Fish

**Specialty Fishing Programs**
- Backyard Bass
- Tenkara

**Advancement Opportunities**
- Fishing Merit Badge Skill Centers
- Fly Fishing Merit Badge Skill Centers
- Fish and Wildlife Management Skill Centers
- BSA Complete Angler Award Program

**BSA Training Programs**
- Introduction to the BSA Angler Educator Program
- Introduction to the BSA Certified Angling Instructor Program

We look forward to fishing with you! FISH ON!

Upcoming BSA Certified Angling Instructor Training Course Offerings:

**CAI Training Courses:**
This course is facilitated by the BSA National Fishing Task Force, with a focus on providing enhancements to your BSA Fishing Programs. Courses will cover Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Venturing Fishing Programs held at the Unit, District, and Council Level. The course delivers an understanding of the Mission and Vision of Outdoor Programs-Fishing. 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).

For the most updated listing of CAI Training Courses scheduled in the Central Region please visit: [https://bcai.wildapricot.org/events](https://bcai.wildapricot.org/events)

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**William T. Hornaday Award Advisor Training Course**

The National BSA Conservation Task Force, William T. Hornaday Committee, is pleased to invite you to the William T. Hornaday Award Adviser Training to be held at Beaumont Scout Reservation, St. Louis, MO, and hosted by the Greater St. Louis Area Council.

**Why:** A full 75% of Hornaday Award medal applications are rejected because Scouts and their Advisers are not clear about the requirements. Informed Advisers will be able to vastly improve a Scout's/Unit’s chances of submitting a quality application after completing a qualified project.

**Who Should Attend:** Scouters who encourage and support scouts with Conservation Programs. Scouters who encourage and support scouts with Advancement and Achievement Programs. Unit Leaders, Commissioners, District /Council Committee members in the following areas Training, Advancement, Outdoor Programs, Camping, Conservation, Hornaday Awards Project Review.

**Dates/Times:** 7:00 pm Friday, July 7, to 12:00 pm Sunday, July 9

**Cost:** $65.00 (includes course materials, meals and a tent site).

Participants may commute to and from the course during evening hours.

**Register** by clicking [https://scoutingevent.com/312-Williamthornadaytraining](https://scoutingevent.com/312-Williamthornadaytraining)

**Faculty:** Tim Beaty

National BSA Conservation Task Force

Chairman of the National Hornaday Awards Committee

**Class Size:** Capacity no more than 30

**Questions:** For additional information on the William T. Hornaday Award Adviser Training Course please contact Tim Beaty [tim.beaty@comcast.net](mailto:tim.beaty@comcast.net)

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*Michael R. Brand*

Fishing Chair
COPE & CLIMBING

Fall Protection on Challenge Courses

The following is a summary of an advisory that was approved by BSA Health & Safety Committee. The full advisory will be placed in the risk management resources folder on the Scouting.org web site.

OSHA Regulations concerning fall protection are being interpreted to apply to challenge course workers including BSA challenge course and zip line operations for both paid and volunteer staff members. Staff members working on surfaces where a fall of more than 4’ can occur must be protected by one or more of the following methods:

1. Guardrails in which the top rail must be at least 42” above the walking surface and have mid-rails between the top rail and the working surface.
2. Safety Nets should be positioned to adequately protect workers from injury if they fall, and allow prompt retrieval of the worker.
3. Travel Restraint Systems limit the travel of the worker to eliminate the possibility of falling over the edge of the platform. Employing travel restraint systems may allow the use of seat harnesses.
4. Personal Fall Protection System which requires the use of full body harnesses. When the free fall potential is limited to 2’ or less, the harness may be connected to the sternum attachment on the harness.
5. Personal Fall Arrest System: In rare cases, facility design or operation may not allow free falls to be limited to 2’ or less, the best course of action is to re-design the facility or operations so that personal fall protection systems or travel restraint systems can be used. When re-design is not feasible, personal fall arrest systems must be used with a dorsal connection to a full body harness.

NCAP

Just a reminder, ALL COPE and Climbing programs must have an NCAP assessment, even if it is not part of a resident camp or it is a weekend only program. During this assessment, the COPE/Climbing program must be in operation. To insure your program is assessed, make sure it is included on the intent to operate form.
Training Opportunities

Beaumont Scout Reservation, High Ridge, MO will be hosting a NCS sanctioned Program Managers Class, November 16 – 19, 2017. Watch for further details.

John Harrits
Central Region COPE & Climbing Chair

Camp Assessment Update

The National Camp Accreditation Committee periodically issues Circulars to help councils and assessment teams. The most recent are #8 (issued in November 2016), and most recently #9 (issued in March of this year). They both can be found at http://www.scouting.org/ncap.aspx. This site is a one stop shop for all things NCAP. Anyone, professional, volunteer or camp staff member, should be familiar with the materials on this site.

Circular # 9 deals with Standard AO-810, Continuous Camp Improvement.

- Effective January 2017, meaning for this year’s assessment, the number of categories has been expanded. Program equipment has been added and Marketing and Communication has also been added as a separate category.
- AO-810 requires that the council has “performed an analysis to identify stakeholders and involved them” in the creation of the Continuous Camp Improvement Plan (CCIP). Per Circular #9, the camp director or council representative “is prepared to explain how the council involves stakeholders” in preparing the CCIP. It is not enough to have the plan, how it was created needs to be explained, in detail.
- Requirement B of AO-810 - - the Council level camp strategic improvement plan, has been moved to January 2019 to allow councils more time to prepare this plan. The CCIP is still required annually. The council level plan must address five of the seven areas.
- Requirement C, the annual or seasonal CCIP, requires that the council identify areas of strength and weakness from at least four of the categories listed in the standard. The goals should be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and have a targeted metric that can be tracked to demonstrate progress. This plan should be revised as needed during the camping season.
• The council is required to include the results of the previous year’s CCIP in their Declaration of Readiness.

**Assessment Teams have been directed to:**

• Review the Declaration of Readiness to ensure it *includes* the prior year’s goals, success criteria and the results.

• Review the current year’s goals, metrics and success criteria.

**Effective January 1, 2017, failure to complete the above on time warrants a noncompliant finding.**

Simply, this means that the results of the prior year’s CCIP and the current year’s plan *must* be included in the Declaration of Readiness, due *May 15th*.

Requirements C and D are the focus of the 2017 assessment process. One of the primary goals of the NCAP process has been to assist councils in improving the quality of their camps and camping program and move them to a sustainable operation. The Assessment Teams expect that the council be able to discuss, in detail, the process they used to create their CCIP. Specifically, the goals, how they were selected, how was input gathered, what the metrics are, how they were measured, what the results were and any lessons learned.

Inability to satisfy the above items could result in a **Noncompliant** finding.

Bottom line for the councils is “Be Prepared” to discuss, in detail, the CCIP and what you have learned.

All the NCAP circulars can be found at: [http://www.scouting.org/ncap.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/ncap.aspx).

*Dan Gille*

National Camping Task Force

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**AQUATICS**
Since 2009, the BSA Lifeguard program has been tied to the Red Cross Lifeguarding program. The Red Cross is the ‘Industry Standard’ for pool lifeguarding, but the Boy Scouts have much more experience with lifeguarding in natural bodies of water.

In January of this year, the American Red Cross released a revision to their Lifeguarding program. The Red Cross is on a 5-year revision cycle. Much of the lifeguarding skills in BSA lifeguard mirrors the American Red Cross. The BSA and ARC have an agreement whereby the BSA can utilize the ARC materials to assist in our program.

With the release of the revised ARC Lifeguarding program, the Aquatics Task Force has been working on updating the BSA Lifeguard program.

**There are some modifications to the BSA Lifeguard requirements:**

- The backstroke and side stroke have been deleted as optional strokes from the 550 yard prerequisite skills. While the backstroke and sidestroke are very important lifesaving strokes, it was felt that these ‘resting strokes’ had no place in testing to determine a candidate’s conditioning and swimming stamina.
- The use of goggles was clarified in the instructor notes. Goggles are permitted in the 550-yard swim, but not allowed on the timed weight retrieval.
- Safe Swim Defense Training is now required using the online training module. Safe Swim Defense training has been taught in the past as part of the course, but by doing this online, we have essentially moved this to a blended learning component and freed up some classroom time.
- Added a requirement that the candidates actively attend all activities, demonstrations and skill sessions.
- Rescue tube entry into deep water and 25-yard swim in 25 seconds has been deleted.
- The time for the passive victim rescue (wrist tow) has been revised from two minutes to 90 seconds. The time for this skill was updated to more align with the industry standards.
- The spinal care on land requirements have been deleted – the Red Cross has deleted the standing takedown and non-standing backboarding on land from their program.

**The course organization has been reworked slightly:**

- The Emergency Action Plan module has been moved up from near the end (Unit 17) of the program to near the beginning (Unit 4). This was done to bring attention to EAP’s earlier in the course and to reorganize BSA Lifeguard instruction to flow more in the order of rescue – like a step by step process.
- Move up the two introductions to rescues, entries and approaches units to introduce these skills before surveillance techniques.

Currently, the BSA Lifeguard draft is out to a group of instructors of both the BSA and ARC for a peer review, and the Aquatics Task Force is targeting mid-April for the release of the 2017 version.
Once the manual is released, we will be working on a new course completion option: American Red Cross Lifeguard plus BSA Lifeguard.

The idea behind this course completion option is to teach ARC Lifeguard at the same time for a dual certification track. This course completion option will be available only for lifeguard instructors who hold both an ARC LGI and BSA LG instructor certifications.

The thought is that the Red Cross Lifeguard course will be taught first, then immediately afterward – the BSA Lifeguard items/concepts that are remaining would be taught.

Essentially, this would be an ARC LG (pool component) + BSA LG (Waterfront Component)

*Terry Budd*

Aquatics Task Force

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**HOW’S YOUR CUB SCOUT CAMPING PROGRAM?**

**WANT TO MAKE IT BETTER?**

**MAYBE WE CAN HELP!!**

Are you seeing declining numbers in your Cub Scout Camping Program? This a regional and national trend, so the Central Region Outdoor Program Support Team has created a Task Force to look at ways to improve the program. The goal is to get more Cubs out camping, and have the Pack’s support and involvement.

Dan Gille and Jim Forrest are willing to come to your Council and help run a brain-storming session to find ways to get more Cub Scouts into the Outdoors! We have some great statistics to share and some super ideas that you may be able to use in your Council.

Just give us a call or email us and we will be glad to work with you!

Dan Gille  
dcgille@gmail.com  
262-902-3836

Jim Forrest  
jcforrest@comcast.net  
651-437-4104 (H)  651-402-1920 (C)
# MEET THE CROPS TEAM!

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CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS
Aaron Randolph aranjr@mcshi.com

I’ve had several occasions recently to reflect on the words of a philosopher (and I suspect also a great Scouter!) which I would like to share with all of you and I sincerely hope you’ll take this advice to heart. The advice was, “Try not. Do or do not. There is no try.” Many of you will recognize those words as advice from the Jedi Master, Yoda.

In the context of Scouting, especially in our roles of providing resources, information and training, in our effort to ensure we are offering the best possible program to our youth participants DO OR DO NOT is the most important step each of us can take. We expect our Scouts to ‘Do my best’, not ‘Try my best’, so we should expect no less of ourselves.

With that in mind, something each of us can DO is take part in the training opportunities and high adventure experiences coming up in the next few months. The Task Force chairs have many details about their offerings, and I encourage you to contact them for help in your Area or your local council. They will put you in contact with subject experts who are willing to assist you to raise the bar on your program offerings.

One of the upcoming events I encourage you to attend and participate in is the 2017 National Scout Jamboree. The Central Region still has staff openings in all four Subcamps of Bravo Base Camp, and every program area still would love to have more volunteers. There are needs in all areas of the Jamboree.

In addition, this fall, the Philmont Training Center (Week 11, September 17 – 23) is devoted to Outdoor Program. There will be sessions devoted to:

- Applying Outdoor Ethics in your Unit, District and Council
- BSA Fishing Train the Trainer
- Certified Angling Instructor Course Director
- Climbing Director Certification
- COPE Advanced Facilitation
- COPE Director Certification
- Council Outdoor Program Committee Operations
- National Camp Accreditation Program (NCAP) - Strengthening your council
- Philmont Leadership Challenge (PLC)
- The Properties Course: The Business of Running a Camp
- Trek Leader Planning and Advanced Outdoor Leader Skills
- Wilderness First Aid Instructor Trainer Certification
- Year Round Shooting Sports.
Another great event to put on your calendar for this fall is the 2017 National Outdoor Conference scheduled at Philmont Training Center September 27 through October 1, 2017. More details will be coming out soon.

And while you’re looking at your calendars, be sure to reserve one of the last two weekends in January 2018. The CROPS Committee will again be offering two Outdoor Program Conferences. The conferences will be held Saturday, January 20, in Des Moines, IA, and Saturday, January 27, in Indianapolis, IN. We look forward to seeing all 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’.

YITSOG
(Yours in The Spirit of Gilwell)

Aaron Randolph
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