



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
PATHWAY TO ADVENTURE COUNCIL



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
PATHWAY TO ADVENTURE COUNCIL

In observance of the upcoming holidays, listed below are the dates that our Council Service Centers and Scout Shops will be closed.

ALL SERVICE CENTERS & SCOUT SHOPS WILL BE CLOSED:

December 22, 2023

December 25, 2023

January 1, 2024

January 15, 2024

**ALL SERVICE CENTERS & MUNSTER SCOUT SHOP
WILL BE CLOSED:**

December 8, 2023



SPOTLIGHT

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SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS!

MORE INFO ON PAGES 8 & 9

SAVE THE DATE!

**YOUTH RECOGNITION DINNER
& COUNCIL RECOGNITION DINNER**

MORE INFO ON PAGE 10



**2024 SCOUTING FOR
FOOD SAVE THE DATE**

**April 6 - Drop off
April 13 - Pickup**

2024 CAMPING

**OWASIPPE
BETZ FAMILY CAMP
CUB SCOUT DAY CAMP**

MORE INFO ON PAGES 6 & 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A light still shines.

Hi. I write this while war rages in Ukraine and Gaza and our congressional leaders are gridlocked. Everywhere we look we see suffering and some people behaving badly.

And then we look into the faces of our Scout youth and know that everything will be alright. They are filled with hope and promise. We teach them to lead by example, and we instill in their hearts the values of our ideals. They are our way forward, and our future. Because of them, we know the future is bright.

I am reminded of a line from one of my favorite poems, Desiderata: "With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world."

Scouting is the light that still shines.

Best wishes for the holidays. Thanks for everything that you have done – and will do! – for Pathway Scouting.

Stephen Schwab
Council President



COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Bench Dedication to Scoutmaster Don Logsdon Sr.:

A group of Scouters decided to undertake a project of dedicating a bench to recognize the contribution of their Scoutmaster Don Logsdon Sr. who served as Munster Scoutmaster from 1957 -1965 for Troop 1331 (64 years ago) during which approximately 30 Scouts in his troop achieved the Eagle rank.

The installation ceremony was held on October 27, 2023 at the Munster Community Park, 8601 Calumet Avenue, Munster behind the Munster Public Library on Calumet Avenue. The commemorative bench was located next to the Munster Lions Club in the park. The Munster Lions Club sponsored the local Scout troop for many years. The Scout troop participated in many conservation projects planting and cultivating trees in the early years of the park. Many outdoor Scouting events were held at the Munster Community Park.

The Munster Scout Troop had over 60 boys and six patrols. The troop camped every year summer, winter, and fall. Every summer the troop went to Camp Betz in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Scoutmaster Logsdon was awarded the highest honor for a lay person, the Silver Beaver Award.

The Munster Lions Club was the sponsor of the Munster Scout Troop during this time. The Scout Troop supported many community projects sponsored by the Munster Lions Club including conservation projects at the beginning of the Munster Community Park, many pancake breakfasts, turkey shoots, and marching in many civic events including Munster parades on Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day.

The installation event commemorated Scoutmaster Donald Logsdon's contribution to the Munster Scouting program, to the Munster community, and the influence Scouting had on so many former Scouts scattered throughout the United States. By his example of good citizenship many former Munster Scouts developed a sense of public service to their local community, conservation ethics, and an appreciation for outdoor skills.

Rechartering:

Gentle reminder to please finish your unit recharter process. There is no recharting code needed. The Internet Rechartering 2.0 is the same process as last year. Units should collect registration fees and submit those payments online or directly to the Council office. The charters are due no later than December 31, 2023. All leaders must have their Youth Protection Training up to date before rechartering. If you know of any units that are not rechartering and if you have any questions regarding the recharter process, please contact your Unit Commissioner, District Commissioner, or District Executive. There are online resources from National BSA at: [Charter Renewal Resources](#) | Boy Scouts of America ([Scouting.org](#)) .

Congratulations:

Please join me in congratulating Pat Wilson as Assistant Council Commissioner - Order of the Arrow.

Bertha Guzman

Council Commissioner



CAMPING

MAKE THIS SUMMER EXTRAORDINARY AT

OWASIPPE

Secure Your Spot Here!



2024 SESSIONS

June 16 - 22, 2024

June 23 - 29, 2024

June 30 - July 6, 2024

July 7 - 13, 2024

July 14 - 20, 2024

July 21 - 27, 2024

July 28 - August 3, 2024

Owasippe Promo Video!



At Owasippe, the waterfront beckons with thrilling water sports like skiing, tubing, and boating. Feeling daring? Our high adventure posts are your ticket to ziplining through the treetops and testing your fortitude on thrilling C.O.P.E. courses. For those who love tradition, there's Scoutcraft and Handicraft, as well as a multitude of merit badges to earn. And don't forget our Diamond O Ranch, where you can saddle up and explore the wilderness on horseback! Feeling crafty? The Flintlock Village is your chance to test your blacksmithing and handiness, creating unique keepsakes that you can cherish forever. And for those with a need for speed, we have ATVs and mountain biking to get your heart racing.

So, grab your gear, rally your fellow Scouts, and answer the call of adventure at Owasippe!

CAMP STAFF APPLICATION

Sign up to become a paid staff member or a counselor in training for the entire summer. Interviews will be held in December.

Applicants must be at least 14 years of age or older upon the start of the summer season.

Sign Up Here

CAMP FRANK S. BETZ CUB SCOUT FAMILY CAMP

REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 1

Cub Camping is celebrating its 40th year at Camp Frank S. Betz! Come and join us for the 2024 Cub Scout Family Camp: B.S.A.!! Betz Spy Agency!

2024 SESSIONS

Session I Jun 28-30, 2024

Session II Jul 12-14, 2024

Session III Jul 19-21, 2024

Session IV Jul 26-28, 2024

Session V Aug 2-4, 2024

IMPORTANT DATES:

Registration Opens Jan 1, 2024

Group Registration Deadline May 1, 2024

Early Bird Pricing Ends May 31, 2024



CUB SCOUT DAY CAMP!

SAVE THE DATE!



2024 SESSIONS

June 1 - Munster, IN

June 8 - Orland Park, IL

June 15 - Burr Ridge, IL

June 22 - Oak Lawn, IL

Aug 3 - Schaumburg, IL

Aug 10 - Park Ridge, IL

Dates and locations subject to change

\$35: Scouts, friends & siblings!

Stay tuned for an activity box to do with your pack to get ready for Day Camp!

COUNCIL AWARDS



NESA OUTSTANDING EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

Nominations are open for the NESA Outstanding Eagle Scout Award!

The NOESA recognizes those Eagle Scouts who have inspired others through their actions and have devoted a lifetime to their profession, avocation, community, and beliefs at great sacrifice to themselves and their families. The award recognizes notable Eagle Scouts who have either performed distinguished service at the local, state, or regional level or who were known nationally for their professional and Scouting achievements.

Nominations are due by 11:59 PM on December 3, 2023. The award will be presented as part of the Youth Recognition Dinner.

[Form Here](#)

[Send Completed Form Here](#)



EAGLE SCOUT SERVICE PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Nominations are open for the Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year Award!

PTAC's National Eagle Scout Association Chapter is currently taking applications for the Glen and Melinda Adams, Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year. This award was created to recognize valuable service of an exceptional nature by a Scout to a religious institution, a school, community, or other entity. The award recognizes the Scout for his Eagle Scout service project, which is part of the requirements for earning the Eagle Scout Award.

To submit your project for consideration please do the following:

1) Fill out the form provided provided below

- Be sure to include a PDF copy of your Eagle Project Workbook and up to 10 photos of the project. Scouts are also encouraged to include a 3-5 min video about their project and it's impact on their community as well as themselves.

2) Forward the form and all supporting documents to: John.Kenny@scouting.org OR deliver to a local Scout Service Center attn: John Kenny, NESAs. Please direct any questions via email: srg1985@gmail.com

Nominations are due by 11:59 PM on January 31, 2024. The award will be presented as part of the Youth Recognition Dinner.

[Form Here](#)

[Send Completed Form Here](#)



COUNCIL AWARDS



SILVER BEAVER NOMINATIONS

Silver Beaver Nominations are now open!

Do you know a Scouter who has distinguished themselves in Scouting and the community? If you do, we want you to nominate them for the Silver Beaver. Don't wait for someone else to nominate that person. The Silver Beaver Award is presented by the National Council, Boy Scouts of America, through the local Council to adult volunteer Scouters for their distinguished service to youth and their community. The Award is intended to acknowledge noteworthy service of exceptional character to youth by registered Scouters including but not limited to Cub Scouters, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts and Exploring leaders within the territory under the jurisdiction of Pathway to Adventure. It is the highest award a Boy Scout Council can bestow upon a volunteer Scouter.

Please do not wait until the last minute. If you have questions about how to nominate a person or fill out the form please contact:

Spencer Long, Silver Beaver Chairman at spencer.long@gmail.com, or Jason Pigg, Silver Beaver Staff Advisor at jason.pigg@scouting.org.

Nominations are due by Monday, December 11, 2023. This award will be presented at the Annual Council Recognition Dinner, scheduled for Sunday, February 25, 2024.

[Form Here](#)

[Send Completed Form Here](#)



COUNCIL ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARD

Nominations are open for the Council Alumnus of the Year Award.

The award recognizes an individual who reminds Scouting alumni to maintain a lifetime relationship with Scouting, who enable Scouting to remain healthy for future generations. In addition, potential recipients of the award may be nominated based on the three following categories:

- Career and/or avocation, such as achieving high honor or distinction in their chosen profession.
- Community service, including contributions to Scouting or other community efforts or organizations.
- Scouting promotion, contributing significantly to the promotion, and/or advancement of the BSA alumni program and activities at a council level over a sustained period of time through word and/or deed.

Nominations are due by 11:59 PM on December 3, 2023. This award will be presented at the Annual Council Recognition Dinner, scheduled for Sunday, February 25, 2024.

[Form Here](#)

[Send Completed Form Here](#)



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

VIRTUAL REALITY IN MERIT BADGES

Ed Rafacz recently organized a Space Exploration Merit Badge training event at Owasippe Summer Camp for the Merit Badge Counselors, as one of his goals for Wood Badge. The focus was on requirements #6, the purpose, operation, and components of the International Space Station (ISS) using interactive virtual reality technology. And for requirement #7, designing an inhabited base on either the Moon or Mars. [This resource can be found here "The Purpose of the Components of the International Space Station."](#) If you are thinking about going to Wood Badge, which is a valuable chance to contribute to your Troop and Scouting BSA, **the opportunity to sign up for Wood Badge 2024 will open in early 2024.**

COUNCIL RECOGNITION DINNER

2024 PATHWAY TO ADVENTURE COUNCIL ANNUAL RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Please join us February 25, 2024 to recognize the volunteers of our council while enjoying fellowship, photoopportunities, and more! The highlight of the event is the presentation of the Silver Beaver Award, the highest recognition presented on the council level.

[Register Here](#)



2024 PATHWAY TO ADVENTURE COUNCIL YOUTH RECOGNITION DINNER

Save the date for March 2, 2024!! Annual recognition dinner celebrating Eagle Scouts, Venturing Summit Award Recipients and Sea Scout Quartermaster Award Recipients who received their award through 2023. This is the annual youth recognition event for those who attained the highest possible award in their chosen program.

[Save the Date](#)



CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING - BOR'S

Hello Scouters - If you have worked with your counselor and completed either the Ad Altare Dei or Pope Pius XII emblem program, you must attend a board of review to complete the program. The boards of review schedule is listed below. The Cathedral Ceremony will be Sunday January 28, 2024 at Holy Name Cathedral

YIS, Deb Sitz - **Chicago Catholic Committee on Scouting**

[BOR Schedule](#)

RECRUITMENT READINESS

DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP ARTICLE

Welcome to your December Membership Article. I hope you and your family had a Healthy and Happy Thanksgiving. Your Membership Team would like to thank you for all your recruitment efforts to date. As we are in our last month of Fall Recruitment, we would like you to take a step back and review your recruitment results for the year against your Drive For 5 goals as you are working on your Charter Renewal.

If you have an outstanding Charter, your Commissioner, District Membership Chair, District Chair and / or your DE will be reaching out to you this month. At this time, you can include the application for your New Member Coordinator if your unit does not already have a registered and trained NMC along with outstanding paper applications for new youth and adults. Your Council has an opportunity to achieve a strong positive year-end Membership growth for 2023 and your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Your District Membership Chair and DE will receive the Drive For 5 tracking results for your Pack by 12/5 and please reach out to them if you have any questions or want to verify your results. As mentioned in the last couple of Membership Articles, your New Member Coordinator (NMC) can help lead your recruitment efforts, can guide your families with the joining and welcoming process along with helping track and monitor the involvement of your new Scouts and their families within your unit.

Drive For 5 Goals Review: A unit incentive where your council will purchase the Pinewood Derby Cars for all the Scouts (new and existing) in your Pack, if you fulfill the following goals:

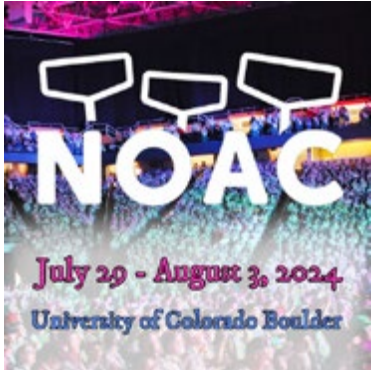
- Share your recruitment dates with your District Membership Chair and your District Executive (DE).
- Recruit 5 new youth over your 3-year rolling average.
 - All the new youth recruited during the year count towards this goal.
- Have a registered and trained New Member Coordinator (NMC).
- The following bullet points is where you can find the NMC training.
 - BSA Learning Center @ my.scouting
 - Select Position Specific Training and select NMC (2 modules)
 - Training Link: <https://training.scouting.org/learning-plans/1128>
 - Overall training takes 45 minutes (no test at the end of either modules)

In closing, I would like to wish you and your family a Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza, or a Merry Christmas during this holiday season. Please ensure you are engaging your new and existing Scouts and their families as they want to be seen, heard, and included. Continue to address all Online Leads and Applications within 48 so those families who are interested in joining Scouting can enjoy the Scouting Experience as this is the first opportunity to Welcome your new Scouts and Families to your unit. If you have any questions, please work with your District Membership Chair, District Executive (DE), and your Unit Commissioner.

Yours In Scouting,

Rick Romani – PTAC Membership VP

ORDER OF THE ARROW



NATIONAL ORDER OF THE ARROW CONFERENCE (NOAC)

Do you want the opportunity to meet thousands of cool Arrowmen from all over the country? Join us at the University of Colorado - Boulder, for the 2024 National Order of the Arrow Conference (NOAC) from July 29 - August 3, 2024! Enjoy engaging activities, large-scale shows, training sessions, and inter-lodge competitions all while experiencing life on a college campus! Register today for the flagship national Order of the Arrow event!

[Register Here](#)



WINTER BANQUET

Join us at the 2024 Takhone Lodge Winter Banquet at the Crystal Sky Banquet Halls in McCook, IL, on January 6 from 12 pm - 4 pm to recognize all of our Arrowmen's amazing accomplishments over the past year, recognize all of our hard work, and enjoy an afternoon of mysterious Clue-themed activities. Register today for just \$25 (youth) or \$40 (adult)!

[Register Here](#)



SECTION G9 WINTER COUNCIL OF CHIEFS (WCOC)

Registration is officially open for the 2024 Section G9 Winter Council of Chiefs. Sign up today to join us for the Beach Party at the Kalahari from January 26 - 28 in the Wisconsin Dells. Enjoy a weekend full of training, meet cool Arrowmen from all over the Midwest, and explore the amazing water park and arcade.

[Register Here](#)

COUNCIL COMMITTEES NEWS

FAITH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

I am honored to announce Stacy Reiss as PTAC's Faith Relations Committee Chair. Our committee is currently composed by members of the Catholic, Lutheran, Islam, and United Methodist faiths, we hope to onboard more members representing other faiths! **You can contact Stacy at stacy@reissfamily.org.**

If you know of a Scouter or a member of our community who would like to contribute to growing faith in our Scouts, please contact me at dl.loep@gmail.com. We are looking for District and Unit Religious emblems coordinators.

The committee looks forward to providing the resources to support all of our Scouts and Scouters in their commitment to their Duty to God.

Yours In Scouting, Donna Loeppert - **PTAC Religious Emblems Coordinator**

SPECIAL NEEDS SCOUTING COMMITTEE

Did you know that every PTAC district has a Special Needs Champion? The PTAC Special Needs Committee has resources to support Scouts with different abilities and needs, their families and their units. Our goal is to support the Scouting journey of all Scouts.

The Special Needs Scouting Committee hosts webinars 2-3 times a year on various topics such as alternate advancement strategies and supporting Scouts with Autism or ADHD. Registration for the events can be found on the PTAC calendar under Advancement and Recognition.

Email us at PTAC.SNS@gmail.com and let us know how we can help!

[Committee Facebook](#)

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

My name is Adrienne Winiecki and I greet you as the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair for Pathway to Adventure Council, BSA. Our committee is here for you as a resource hub, represented in each one of your districts through a DEI Champion. It is our goal to introduce ourselves to you through roundtables, district meetings, and/or surveys - a set which recently were distributed (links below). We believe that for us to truly be of service, we must first understand the needs of our Scouting members across the vast PTAC geography. With that end in mind, we look forward to developing and distributing resources that we hope will benefit your Scout and Scouting program.

We hope to greet you soon! **Feel free to contact us at dei.committee@ptacscouting.org.**

Yours In Scouting, Adrienne Winiecki - **PTAC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair**

[Merit Badge Counselor Survey](#)

[Parent Survey](#)

[Unit Leader Survey](#)



DO YOU HAVE A SCOUT STORY YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

Don't keep the good work your Scouts do a secret. Tell us what they did and send a couple pictures. We might put your story on our social media or perhaps your Scout will be the feature in our next story.

Help get Scouts the recognition they deserve!

[Submit Story Here!](#)



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PathwayTo.Adventure@Scouting.org



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617 E. Golf Rd., Suite 101
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Chicago Center for Scouting

106 N. Aberdeen St., Suite 200
Chicago, IL 60607

La Grange Center for Scouting

811 W. Hillgrove Ave.
La Grange, IL 60525

Robert J. Welsh Center for Scouting

8751 Calumet Ave.
Munster, IN 46321