



The Trail to Adventure

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

PROVIDED BY
THE NATIONAL
OUTDOOR
PROGRAMS
SUPPORT
COMMITTEE OF
THE BOY
SCOUTS OF
AMERICA

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Leadership	2
Comments	
New Task Force,	3
National Outdoor	
Ethics Conference	
Region Updates	4
PTC Fall Menu	5
Health and Safety	6
Resources,	
Biking Task Force	
Unit Spotlight	7
Shooting Sports	8
Camping	9
Strategic Analysis,	10
Facility	
Management.	
Camping and	11
Retention	
Conservation,	12
COPE/Climbing	
Fishing	13
Key Contact s	14



National Camping Schools returns to Outdoor Programs

After a 3 year period as part of Scouting U, the direction and administration of the National Camping Schools returns as part of Outdoor Programs, led by Keith Christopher, Council Services Department Manager.

Part of the restructure is to allow Scouting U to focus on leadership and unit training functions and programs for youth and adults, while establishing a mutual link between Outdoor Programs and the leaders who attend over 80 NCS programs nationwide each year.



National Aquatics Workshop dates set

The 2016 National Aquatics Workshop will be held September 28 to October 2 this coming fall. This is a great opportunity to meet and discuss aquatic programs with national leadership, all in the beautiful setting of the Florida Sea Base. Cost is \$240.00 per person. The workshop maximum is 100 people, so sign up today via the link below:

<https://reservations.scouting.org/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0X617139184>

If you have questions, contact Pat Noack at: noackpat@yahoo.com.

June 2016



**Mark Stinnett,
National Outdoor
Programs Support
Chairman**



**Keith Christopher,
Council Services
Department Manager**

National Leadership Comments

I've just returned from the opening staff programs at Philmont for 2016, where more than 1100 new and returning staff members are preparing wilderness adventures that last a lifetime. What a great time of year! The eagerness and anticipation on every face reflects all that is right with Scouting.

I have no doubt that similar sights are abundant at our other High Adventure bases and in councils across America as we welcome thousands of scouts to camp this summer. But these should serve as a reminder that our Outdoor Programs need to be strong all year— that's what keeps kids in Scouting!

To help deliver that stellar year round program, we have a great slew of Outdoor based courses offered at the Philmont Training Center Fall Conference this September. Please encourage those you know in your outdoor realm to come and expand their training and horizons. The conference menu is listed on page 5.

Also, don't forget that other outdoor related courses are available throughout the summer at Philmont and our other bases as well. Check out their websites for more details.

Yours in Scouting,
Mark Stinnett

Outdoor Programs/Properties is alive and well in the BSA. We have had some recent changes that will benefit the support of Outdoor Programs. A newly organized **Council Services Department** encompasses our overall support in 5 teams:

- National Facilities and Administration
- Outdoor Programs and Properties
- Shared Services
- Member Care Contact Center
- Council Registration Shared Services.

I'll focus on those resources that pertain exclusively to Outdoor Programs. The Outdoor Program./Properties Team provides direction and support for anything outdoors; Aquatics, Camping, Fishing, Biking, COPE/Climbing, Shooting Sports, Conservation, Strategic Analysis for Camp Facilities/Maintenance, Outdoor Ethics, NCAP and National Camping Schools. Go to: www.scouting.org/outdoorprograms and get details about outdoor opportunities available to your youth and families.

For property support, go to: www.scouting.org/properties to find resources to enhance your camps.

The Member Care Contact Center is your call-in center to get assistance on any questions you have. Our staff is developing a Knowledge Base to help answer your Outdoor Programs calls as well as any other aspect of Scouting.

If you want to see what is available as far as cost savings for products and services nationally, reach out to our Shared Services Team. We are developing a web site; "Programs, Products and Services" to help guide you as to what's available in each category in the near future. Our goal is to have the web site running by the end of August.

Finally, mark your calendar for September 27-October 1, 2017 for the National Outdoor Conference at Philmont Scout Ranch. This conference is packed with electives, special presentations, great food and lots of networking with others around the country that are involved with Outdoor Programs. More details to follow.

Have a great summer in the Outdoors. It's why youth join Scouting!

Thanks for all you do for America's Youth,
Keith Christopher
Council Services Department Manager

New National Task Force to address key properties issues

Earlier in 2016, a new Task Force was added to the Outdoor Program Support Committee that is charged with addressing key property and management issues facing local councils across the nation.

The Strategic Analysis/Facilities Management Task Force is designed to help councils plan for future utilization of council properties, based on assessments and reports generated from four years of data gathered by NCAP (National Camp Accreditation Program) and current patterns and needs of membership.

One of the most challenging issues that faces any council is the future of a property. This Task Force is designed to do 3 basic functions:

- To help councils make an objective evaluation of current needs and resources with training modules and printed materials
- To offer best practices on improvements to existing properties
- Give the council the tools to protect and develop the value of property assets.



The chairman is Sal Ciampo and members include representatives from each of the 4 regions, members at large and staff support from John Stewart, P.E. of the Outdoor Programs/Properties Department. Go to page 10 for an update on this new group.

National Outdoor Ethics Conference

October 6-8, 2016

Camp Tracy, Great Salt Lake Council, Salt Lake City UT

Who should attend? Area, Council and District OE Advocates, Leave No Trace Master Educators and Trainers, Tread Lightly! Masters and Trainers and Outdoor Ethics enthusiasts.

Cost: \$140.00 per person before August 22, (\$160.00 per person after August 22). Registration, sessions and housing details are available at:

<http://outdoorethics-bsa.org/OEconference>

Email your questions to: oeconference@outdoorethics-bsa.org



Central Region Notes

Jim Kern, Chairman



Our committee moves into 2016-2017 with goals we have set, based on perceived needs and input from others. Each of the Task Forces will work a set of goals that are designed to engage more people and strengthen the communications between areas and councils.

Effective September 2016, Aaron Randolph of Marion Iowa becomes the new chairman of Outdoor Programs for the Central Region. Congratulations to Aaron and good luck!

Our committee plans a strong presence at the joint Outdoor Conference of the Michigan Crossroads Council of Flint MI and the Pathways to Adventure Council of Chicago IL this fall.

Check the 2 council websites for more details:

www.pathwaystoAdventure.org

www.michiganscouting.org

Lastly, if you wish to receive our region newsletter, **The Promise**, feel free to contact :

Editor Dan Gille : dcgille@gmail.com



Western Region Report

Steve Bradley,
Chairman

The Region Jamboree Committee continues 2017 recruiting for staff at the base camp and sub camps. The committee is working to complete the registration process.

The region Order of the Arrow Committee is gearing up for a NLS in Anchorage AK This is done every 4 years due to extensive travel. Attendance is estimated at 65 with 10 staff members.

A NRA Training Counselor workshop is slated for October. Location and date should be set in 6-8 weeks.

There will be a regional Outdoor Ethics conference at Philmont in October. Details to follow.

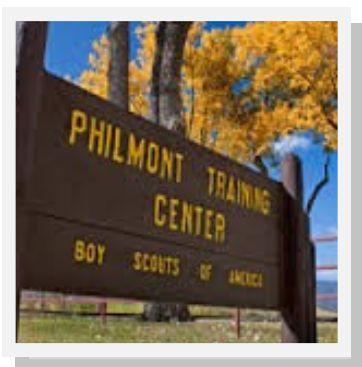
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Philmont Training Center Fall Conference Menu September 18-24, 2016

- BSA Fishing Train The Trainer
- COPE Director Certification
- Climbing Director Certification
- COPE & Climbing: Design, Construction, Maintenance and Inspection
- COPE & Climbing: Program Manager Certification
- Facilities Management
- Implementing the National Camp Accreditation Program (NCAP)
- Philmont Leadership Challenge
- Shooting Sports Director Re-Certification (new for 2016)
- “Take Aim” at Year Round Shooting Sports Programs
- Trek Leader Planning and Advanced Outdoor Leader Skills
- Wilderness First Aid Instructor Certification

Register at: www.PhillmontTrainingCenter.org





Health and Safety Committee offers Incident Resources

When an accident occurs at any event, a Safety Incident Review (SIR) should be submitted to study the incident and provide some insight as to how they can be prevented in the future.

The National Health and Safety Committee has begun to develop template sheets that can be used to submit incidents and provides them to be used as instructional tools at Roundtables, Unit meetings, University of Scouting and other similar events. These are housed on the BSA Scouting Safely web page under the Incident reporting link. A direct link is:

http://www.scouting.org/Home/HealthandSafety/incident_report.aspx.

You will find them at the bottom of the H&S web page. It also contains a “How To” which instructs users of these new resources.

Currently, 4 templates are available: Swimming, Burns from Fire Starting, Burns to Youth and Cardiac. Several more are in process and listed on the above link. Watch for further updates and use this great resource to help prevent future incidents.

Biking Task Force completes its work

Sal Ciampo reports that the final report has been completed by the Biking Task Force. Based on input over the past year, these suggestions have been incorporated into the following documents:

- Mountain Biking Design Guidelines
- Mountain Biking Program Guidelines
- BMX Design Guidelines
- BMX Program Guidelines.

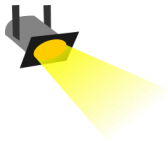


Comments are still welcome (follow the links below) and they will be considered for future updates. Design manuals are located at:

www.scouting.org/scoutsource/OutdoorPrograms/Properties/Resources/DesignGuidelines.aspx

Program Guidelines are located at:

www.scouting.org/scoutsource/OutdoorProgram/Biking.aspx

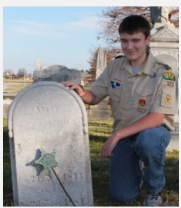
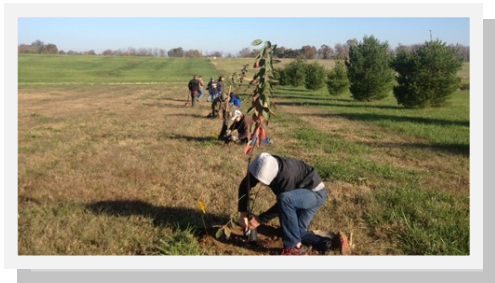


Unit Spotlight: Troop 323, Waterloo Illinois

A summer camp in another state, a High Adventure base trip, 100 mile float on a National Scenic river, a winter ski trip, and 5 or 6 weekend campouts. What else could you pack into a year?

For Troop 323, that’s a normal year in this unit’s active program. With a full tenured experience, scouts get the opportunity to attend 3 or 4 of our National High Adventure Bases.

The outdoor program is only one aspect of the activities this unit conducts each year. Many community leaders and service clubs come to the troop for help with projects. “One of the great things about our troop is that we have civic leaders who understand what an Eagle project is supposed to be,” says (newly retired) Scoutmaster Bill Rebholz. The town and various religious organizations have brought projects that are age appropriate, ranging from restoring a historic log cabin to helping to identify historic graves.



As a unit sponsored by a VFW post, the troop has scouts from different faiths working together. Scouts in this strong unit also come from a variety of financial needs. As such the troop budget is designed around providing financial support, so no boy misses an event due to resources. They conduct only two major fundraisers a year, which provides financial support for outdoor programs.

Troop 323 works as Scouting intends; a boy run troop guided by the Scoutmaster. As new families are brought in, they are welcomed with the understanding that this great program needs help from everyone. A unit spokesperson said, “We face the same competition (for young men’s time) as other units. We win the competition with that by having more excitement, challenge and fun”. Bill said, “It’s not rocket science; you do what the BSA prescribes and you can run a program that is safe and fun. If a scout stays in the program, we provide him an environment where the Eagle badge can happen.”



What’s the result? Troop 323 has an 80+ year tradition. Meeting attendance averages around 35 each week. Annually, 7 to 8 boys will earn the Eagle Scout Award and most young men of this active unit go on to college or join the military. Bill also commented; “We get good press with all that going on. Our community recognizes the value that Scouting offers.”

Thanks to Mark Pluff and Joe Bomba for contributions to this article.

Shooting Sports update

Mark Pluff

Our Task Force has been hard at work for the past few months and have rolled out 5 new program guides for your council to expand local shooting sport offerings to older youth. These various programs are designed for youth in differing age groups and with different venues in mind:

- Chalkball
- Multi Gun Airsoft
- Cowboy Action Shooting
- Pistol Safety and Marksmanship
- Competitive Pistol (scholastic Action Shooting Program).



Response to these new programs has been excellent with over 40 new program features being offered around the country this summer. Check out these exciting new programs at:

www.scouting.org/Home/OutdoorPrograms/ShootingSports.aspx.

Working in conjunction with the Cub Scout Task Force, a completely new Cub Scout Shooting Sport Award program has been developed and is available for this summer. We look forward to feedback from councils on how this program encourages younger scouts to be involved with safe and fun shooting activities.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation has again created a challenge grant program specifically for local councils and their shooting programs. Challenge grant funds up to \$2000.00 are available and should reflect planning to strengthen and increase shooting activities and knowledge of firearm safety. Visit: <http://nssf.org/bsagrant/> for more information.

Annually, a Boy Scout and Venturer or Sea Scout are chosen to represent the BSA as a youth ambassador to the Brownell Youth Ambassador program, presented by the National Rifle Association. The application for submission and additional information on this program can be obtained at:

www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/BSA-NRA_Ambassador_App.2017.pdf

Applications are due August 1 for consideration and should be submitted electronically to: shootingsports@scouting.org.



Camping Task Force Update

Jim Blair

The requirements for the Firem'n Chit card were updated May 24, 2016 to include the practices of Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly!.



The revised requirements are:

1. Read and understand fire use and safety rules from The Boy Scout Handbook.
2. Build campfires only when necessary and when you have permission.
3. Minimize campfire impacts using existing campfire lays when available consistent with the principles of Leave No Trace. All flammable material must be cleared at least 5 feet in all directions from fire.
4. Safely use and store fire starting materials.
5. See that fires are tended to at all times.
6. Make sure that water and/or fire tools are readily available and promptly report any wildfire to the proper authorities.
7. Use the cold-out test to make sure the fire is cold out and make sure the fire lay is cleaned before leaving it.
8. Follow the Outdoor Code and the principles of Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly!.

Cards with the new requirements should be ready late summer of this year.



Strategic Analysis and Facilities Management Task Force Sal Ciampo



Recently, the Strategic Analysis (NCAP) Task Force and the Camp Maintenance (Outdoor Program Support) Task Force were combined under the Outdoor Program Support Committee.

Our Task Force is currently undertaking 3 projects to assist in the overall success of councils when evaluating properties and maintenance of them:

Ranger University: a recommendation has been made to enhance BSA Ranger training curriculum. This based on input from rangers and observations at a Ranger School at Philmont earlier this year.

A Guide to Camp Maintenance: A collection of best practices is being gathered for use by rangers and facility management personnel. A revised Ranger curriculum would be part of this and is scheduled for late 2018.

Strategic Analysis Workbook: This was originally initiated under NCAP. This document would evaluate the quality of resident camping program under 5 topics:

- Staffing
- Program Equipment
- Facilities
- Program Depth
- Financial Stability.



Testing and modification of this tool is being conducted in the Northeast Region with approximately 40 camps. Look for publication in late 2017.

Camping and Youth Retention: An Executive Summary

From the National Camping Task Force

Each year, local councils submit detailed, council-level camping data to the National Service Center for inclusion in the annual National Camping Report. In order to understand the impact camping has on youth retention, the Camping Task Force analyzed 5 years of camping and retention data for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts.

For Cub Scouts, the analysis indicates that Day Camp and Resident Camp have a weak correlation to Retention. For Boy Scouts, it is the same in relationship to Resident Camp and High Adventure.

These weak correlations reflect that, regardless of the quality of the council program, there is no substitute for **a robust, year-round unit outdoor program**. One council program director put it succinctly: “1 week at Summer Camp does not make up for 51 weeks of poor outdoor program.”

From interviewing local councils, the Task Force identified 7 camping practices that it believes will improve council-level camping programs:

- Use data to predict next year’s campers (and the equipment you need)
- Market to the individual scouts and parents, not just the unit leaders
(10% of a unit’s scouts can convince others to attend an activity they otherwise weren’t planning to)
- Camping Committee diversity reflects the population served (including generational)
- Attract large numbers of out-of-council units (double-edged sword)
- Consistent focus on Customer Service
- “After action” report to synthesize major (good and bad) lessons learned
- Offer a variety of camping programs (e.g., camps, weekend events), but ensure they’re worth the effort.

As a result of this study, the Task Force is identifying opportunities to support all BSA units in sustaining strong, active outdoor programs. Initial ideas include:

- Encourage councils to identify camping facilities nearby for Cub Scouts
- Leverage Day Camp to train parents to run exciting pack and den outings
- Encourage surveys of parents to identify barriers and enablers of camping
- Engage Regional and Area Outdoor Program leaders to provide resources targeted to local units
- Provide outdoor program materials, including *Scouting Magazine* and Roundtables
- Promote awareness and use of the “Where to go Camping” app
- Engage district executives in encouraging unit-level outdoor programs.

While council-level camping data is readily available, unit camping data is not. The Task Force believes that gathering this data, either through the unit-level JTE scoresheets or ScoutBook allows the BSA to understand the overall health of its camping program and identify opportunities to support units in sustaining strong, active outdoor programs.



Conservation

Mark Rey

A great session was held just last week (June 5-12) at Philmont Training Center about the William T. Hornaday program.

This course helped volunteers to learn how to support local councils and increase capacity to tackle conservation work, build new community partnerships and establish effective council Hornaday committees.

All of the various Hornaday awards were covered and participants were taught how to support youth in their role as a Hornaday award adviser.

COPE and Climbing update

John Winter

The COPE Task Force is in process of providing a Unit caving manual and canyoneering manual. Both new publications should be finalized this summer and available online. Watch for further updates.

Members of our Task Force are assisting with construction of a new High COPE course at Rocky Mountain Scout Camp , located at Philmont Scout Ranch.

If you still need training this year for COPE and Climbing Program Manager at National Camping School, there's still time. Sessions are scheduled at Camp Powhatan VA and Camp Fire Mountain WA.

Get more details at: www.ncsbsa.org.

Fishing Task Force Update

Ben Jelsema

The Fishing Task Force has been very productive the past few months with training, planning and promotion. The Certified Angler Instructor course (CAI) program trained over 100 in 2015 and has 66 so far in 2016. Over 50 CAI's have been trained at Philmont and Northern Tier for the 2016 season and 8-10 courses are planned yet in this year.

We currently have Memos of Understanding (MOU's) with 4 groups outside of Scouting to help bring youth to the outdoors via fishing. Our role with them is to provide Youth Protection Training, notes on how to teach scouts and information on the related Boy Scout Merit Badges and Cub Scout Modular Guides.



Our Jamboree plans are taking shape also. We have limited space for lines at Lake Griffin so we plan to offer fly casting, fly tying and a backyard spin casting game. In the Conservation area, scouts will be able to build "Spider Block" fish attractors and recycling posts to capture used fishing line.

We also plan to expand our focus on Cub Scout programs to assist with recruitment and retention. A test program in St. Louis showed Cub Scouts have great enthusiasm for fishing activities; either in a pond or a gymnasium. This is a great way to draw and retain youth, while expanding their attraction to the outdoors. Fish On!!



**ARE YOU IN?
JULY 17-29, 2017**

WWW.SUMMITBSA.ORG/EVENTS/JAMBOREE

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The Trail To Adventure Newsletter



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