

The Black Bear



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Council Key 3

Dear Scouts and Scouters

I hope this newsletter finds all of our Scouting Family safe and well. As you know, we are finding ourselves in an unusual and uncomfortable situation with the Covid-19 virus. It came unexpectedly and quickly on the scene. I am pleased to say that the Scouting Mission and Vision is alive and well, with units conducting their meetings and events on social media. We all know how much our youth enjoy their phones and computers and are very adept at using them. If you find yourselves in need of suggestions or examples of different possible methods, please contact the office for assistance. Hopefully soon we will be able to get back to the exciting functions and activities that we enjoy so much. BE SAFE

Yours in Scouting,

Dennis D. Burke
Council Commissioner

Treehouse Talk

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Scout Law

A Scout is:

Trustworthy

Loyal

Helpful

Friendly

Courteous

Kind

Obedient

Cheerful

Thrifty

Brave

Clean

Reverent

Scout Oath

On my honor, I will do my best. To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight

Returning to Normal

As many of you we are hoping that things begin to return to some kind of normalcy very soon. We are very hopeful that we will begin phase 1 of the return beginning May 18th. In preparing for the restart up the council office will maintain the following:

1. Social Distancing.
2. We encourage everyone to wear a mask.
3. The office will be limited to 10 people.

We will begin having Eagle Board of reviews, small group trainings, small meetings, etc...

We are preparing for Summer Camp as usual. You will see below the Date changes to camp. We will be making changes to merit badges, schedules, etc.. as we get closer to camp and determine what restrictions will be in place. Our plan and hopes are to have the safest summer camp ever. However, we are the determination of the Federal and state government. We are closely monitoring and will keep you all posted as restrictions are released and we continue to move forward with camp. Continue to Stay Safe, Stay at Home, and this will soon pass. Thanks for all you do for our Scouts.

Summer Camp Updates and FAQ'S

The safety of our campers, staff, and guests is our primary concern.

The LPC is continuing to plan for a summer camp program, and will continue to plan for a summer camping program until it is no longer feasible to do so.

Obviously, we are taking our directives week by week and government mandates (such as the State's mandates regarding social distancing and non-essential businesses) will ultimately determine whether and how we can open and operate our camps this summer.

However, we believe that it would be best to be prepared for the possibility of conducting our camping program this summer.

We are currently planning on holding summer camp at Camp T.L. James and Camp Attakapas in 2020. We are working to determine the best course of action as new information continues to become available from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the state departments of health.

The safety of our Scouts is our most important concern. Just like you and your unit, we strongly desire that every Scout has an amazing, safe experience at summer camp. We also recognize that many families have been planning for their summer camp trip for the past year. So, we will not make these decisions lightly.

What options are being considered?

The council has formed a special committee focused on the safe operations of our summer camp programs. The group has made the decision with approval of the board to delay the start of camp, and adjust session cycles that enhance social distancing options. The group is also considering safety aspects related to housing, dining, and program activities.

What updates have been made to camp?

Staff Week will begin July 5th - 11th

Cub Resident Camp July 9th - 12th

Camp T.L. James July 12th - 18th

Camp Attakapas July 19th - 25th

Early Bird Registration May 29th

What happens if...?

We know there are currently lots of unknowns currently both in Scouting and in our communities. We are developing robust contingency plans to cover a myriad of possible situations. In all of them, the safety of our staff and participants is vital. We strongly believe that the world needs Scouting and will continue to develop plans and options so our Scouts can continue to have a transformative experience regardless of any temporary obstacles.

How will you communicate changes?

The latest information for both summer camp and other activities at our camps will be available on council website and Facebook. In addition, if substantial changes are made to summer camp, we will email and call all registered unit leaders.

If Summer Camp is canceled will I get a full refund?

Yes. We will provide a full refund if we are unable to hold summer camp.

What if I cannot get a new Part C for my medical form?

The BSA National Safety and Health Team is currently evaluating all options while being mindful of those who have valid exams, new members and adults who may have never completed a Part C exam, and state/local requirements.

Who can I ask if I have other questions?

Please reach out to your district executive or to Greg Covington at greg.covington@scouting.org.



Attakapas District - Attakapas District - In the midst of the craziness happening, I just want to thank all of our leaders for being in contact with their Scouts and Families, without you all, we could not have quality scouting. If your scout's unit is still interested in earning money for summer or winter camps or y'all just need some new equipment, we still have camp cards that you can sell. Camp cards are a no cost to you fundraiser in that you don't buy them ahead of time; you just need to return what you don't sell and \$5 per card. For \$10 your card includes coupons to Johnny's Pizza, Popeyes, and the Bowling Alley in Alexandria. Please contact Richard if you are interested.

Also for the rest of 2020 and going into 2021, the Attakapas district is going to increase our training opportunities. We would like to offer 3 specific trainings, Cub Scout Leader Training, Basic Adult Leadership Outdoor Orientation(BALOO), and Scoutmaster training, to our leaders so every scout can have a trained leader. Cub Scout Packs without a BALOO trained leader can not have their own pack camp outs. The district is always looking for our volunteers to help with training since there is no better training than peer to peer education. If you are a leader, a skilled camper, or a committee member that would like to help, please email or call Richard

Pioneer District – Looks like we are getting ready to start our second month of self-isolation and social distancing. Several Packs and Troops are still engaged in scouting activities. I know it is getting harder to keep our cubs and scouts engaged. But, through newsletters, email flyers, remind, and zoom, I have been told that scouting continues. Take this time to finish up on rank requirements, merit badges, and electives. Also look at the available special awards that can be earned during this time. Hopefully soon, we can all get back together for in person meetings.

Pioneer Pinewood Derby continues to be postponed. We are looking at rescheduling May's monthly Eagle Board and District Meeting. Depending on how much longer the COVID-19 crisis continues, then we will discuss conducting a Virtual District Pinewood Derby.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful scouting volunteers. Without their continued support of the scouting program, our cubs and scouts would miss out on the skills and values that scouting teaches us. Thank you. Call me if you need something and let's stay in contact.

Thunderbird District – I have missed getting to see many of you that would have been at our regularly scheduled events. In the past several weeks that we have been "at home" I have had the opportunity to reflect on what Scouting means to my family and our community as a whole. I have been encouraged by the fact that many of you have taken the opportunity to brush up on your social media skills using face book, facetime, zoom and other platforms to continue to meet. I know that things are still a bit up in the air but we are going to reschedule the events as soon as we can. If you have any questions about an upcoming event please feel free to call or email me at peter.thorson@scouting.org.

Please note that summer camp dates have been moved to July and that we are going to have to move the May BALOO/IOLS date as well. Please let me know what new dates will work best for you.

Camp Cards are out if any of you are interested in selling or purchasing them please let me know.

I want to thank all of the awesome volunteers that are continuing to make Scouts great.

We have cultivated resources from around the web to help you get through your Scouting quarantine. We're not letting COVID-19 stop us from Scouting! We're lining up the best of the Web merit badge counselors, advancement experts and fun activities for you and your Scouts! Here you'll find webinars, resources, tools and more for your Scouts to keep achieving, growing and advancing in Scout skills.

For All:

[Google virtual National Parks tour](#) [Travel and leisure magazines 12 free Museum virtual tours](#) [Scout Share](#)

Cub Scouts:

[Digital Den Meetings](#): all Cub Scouts (and parents) are welcome to join us Wednesday nights for fun during council-wide digital den meetings! These are done by Cascade Pacific Council and run on Pacific Time

[30 day Lion Challenge](#)

[30 Day Tiger Challenge](#)

[30 Day Wolf Challenge](#)

[30 Day Bear Challenge](#)

[30 Day Webelos Challenge](#)

[Cub Scout activities](#)

Scouts BSA:

[How to Run Successful Digital Scout Meetings](#): Troop 19 Scoutmaster David Parry shows us how his troop is having great success with online meetings to keep his Scouts connected, advancing and having fun! These are done by Cascade Pacific Council and run on Pacific Time

[Merit Badges for Social Distancing](#)

[How to conduct a Board of Review digitally](#)

[Public Health Virtual meeting](#) - Cradle of Liberty Council

[Merit Badges for extended periods at home](#)

Other Nice sites:

30-Day Challenge Hawkeye Area Council, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

As communities are practicing caution and social distancing, the Hawkeye Area Council developed a 30-Day Challenge for each Cub Scout rank. Use this at home to help keep Scout's skills sharp.

<https://hawkeyebsa.org/30-day-challenge/>

Advancement Academy: Virtual Resources for Keeping Scouts Advancing, Connected & Having Fun

Cascade Pacific Council, Portland, Oregon

Can't get together as a group? Visit the Advancement Academy for a digital den meeting or merit badge class. Digital den meetings are offered through Zoom and promoted through Facebook. Participants are asked to sign up in advance. There is also great content for Scouts BSA, including sessions on [How to Run Successful Digital Scout Meetings](#) as well as online Merit badge sessions on [Coin Collecting](#), Personal Fitness and more. The site also includes Facebook groups that anyone in the country can join: [Cub Scout](#) and [Scouts BSA](#).

<https://www.cpcbsa.org/advancement-academy>

Scouting at Home

Atlanta Area Council, Atlanta, Georgia

If you're looking for a comprehensive list of things that Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA can do to Scout at home, this is it. The page features content directly from Scoutbook and includes ideas of other activities Scouts can do. Plus, suggestions for video platforms – and of course, reminders about the importance of following youth protection standards.

<https://www.atlantabsa.org/scoutingathome>

[National Geographic Kids](#)

Activities and quizzes for younger kids

[Duolingo](#)

Learn languages for free

[Prodigy Math](#)

Good for elementary school ages

[Big History Project](#)

Aimed at Secondary age, multi-discip

[Geography Games](#)

Geography gaming!

[STEM Simulators](#)

[Learn Computer Science](#)

[The Artful Parent](#)

[Red Ted Art](#)

[The Imagination Tree](#)

[Toy Theater](#)

