THE BLUE BLAZE

Newsletter of the Catoctin Mountain District (Est. June 3, 2003) April 2012 Vol. 10 No. 4

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

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District Webpage: http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/openrosters/view_homepage.asp?orgkey=2009

Upcoming Events (Training events in red)

April

24 District Committee Meeting, 7:30pm, 199 North Place, Frederick, 21701, fbroadrup@comcast.net

25 District Eagle Review

27-29 OA Ordeal

28 BALOO (Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation), contact smatlockscouter@gmail.com

May

4-6 Wood Badge 1 of 2, Tallent.Robert@epa.gov

8 Roundtable (Boy Scout/Cub Scout/OA) 7:15pm at LDS Stake Center, 199 North Place, Frederick
Training at Roundtable: Safety Afloat, contact mudrat@erols.com,
Leave No Trace, contact mudrat@erols.com

10 Commissioner's Meeting, 7:30pm Walkersville LDS Chapel

15 **Merit Badge Counselor Training**, contact advisor@crew270.com

18-20 Goshen Bear Workend

18-20 **Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS)** by AT District, contact wklohr@gmail.com

19 Citizenship Merit Badge Day, contact r_golling@yahoo.com

22 District Committee Meeting, 7:30pm, 199 North Place, Frederick, 21701, fbroadrup@comcast.net

23 District Eagle Review

June

1-3 Wood Badge 2 of 2, Tallent.Robert@epa.gov

12 Roundtable (Boy Scout/Cub Scout/OA) 7:15pm at LDS Stake Center, 199 North Place, Frederick
Training at Roundtable: Tiger Den Leader Specific Training, contact smatlockscouter@gmail.com
Safe Swim Defense, contact mudrat@erols.com

14 Commissioner's Meeting, 7:30pm Walkersville LDS Chapel

18-22 Cub Scout Day Camp

22-24 **IMPESSA (NYLT) 1 of 2**, contact nyltncac@yahoo.com

26 District Committee Meeting, 7:30pm, 199 North Place, Frederick, 21701, fbroadrup@comcast.net

27 District Eagle Review

29-7/1 **IMPESSA (NYLT) 2 of 2**, contact nyltncac@yahoo.com

Day Camp Reminder from Mike Deegan

Please remember, early registration for day camp is April 16 with council but since we are working with a District registrar please submit your paperwork to Mike Deegan, Day Camp Director, by April 12 to confirm you receive the early registration.

If you have questions please email deeganmj@yahoo.com or call 240-344-4323.

The Chairman's Corner by Fred Broadrup

I would like to bring the following to your attention: You are invited to attend our District Recognition Dinner on Saturday, May 12th. Please email Ron Layman (layman2@verizon.net)for reservations to attend this enjoyable and worthy event.

The minutes of our District Committee Meeting are now available to all in a link provided in the monthly *Blue Blaze*. I suggest all Unit leaders getting *The Blue Blaze* forward it to all members of their respective units. There is no better way to stay informed than reading *The Blue Blaze*.

Thanks to Troop 470 for sponsoring the Hornaday Environmental Camporee. What a wonderful idea and event. Since last year when Troop 470 earned the Unit Hornaday Award, their continued efforts promoting environmental issues and conservation has served as a model for furthering Hornaday interest in our District. This year a District focus is on Conservation and the Environment.

Our next Camporee is 9/7-9/12. A nautical theme featuring water craft will be held at Cunningham Falls State Park . We are in need of Scouters who can provide rowboats and power boats with electric engines. Please contact me if you can supply these boats.

I am pleased to report these final two items:

The first, six units have requested to host future Camporees for the next five years. Last month I asked Brian Voltaggio (Chef/Owner of Volt Restaurant in Frederick) if he would be interested in becoming involved with an outdoor cooking theme Camporee. His response was positive. If you would like to work with Brian on such an event, call me. The earliest this Camporee could happen is Spring of 2014 as we are booked until then.

The second item to report, our District now has nine units going to Goshen this summer. We have exceeded our goal for youth attendance with an increase of 37% to date over last summer. The $1000 incentive drawing sponsored by Ship 59 has worked. It is not too late to sign up for Goshen and have a chance to win the drawing. Camp Airy is still a great place for a summer camp experience. For the best of both worlds, have your Scouts attend both Goshen and Airy next summer.

I thank each of you for the positive input you are having on our Scouts. Our District is living up to the vision of "getting bigger and better."

To view the District Committee meeting minutes:
January 2012, go to http://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.aspx?id=110488

February 2012, go to http://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.aspx?id=110489

Call for Articles

If your unit has done a conservation project over the past year, we would like to hear about it. Since this is the 100th anniversary of Scouting in Frederick County, we are hoping to showcase the conservation efforts of our Scouting units in the local papers. Please send articles and photos to lindasundergill@comcast.net.

Farm Stream Buffer Planting submitted by John Smucker, Catoctin Forest Alliance. On Sat, 21 Apr, 2012 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM we will be planting 1,500 native trees to reforest 8 acres in the Lake Linganore watershed, a drinking water source for the City of Frederick. This project is part of the Farm Stewardship Program. Partners include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Catoctin/Monocacy Watershed Alliance, Sterling Planet, and Washington Gas Energy Services.

This event is suitable for adults, families and community groups. Dress for the weather. Refreshments will be provided. Bring your reusable water bottle to be refilled from sports thermos. Registration is required. Contact Carmera Thomas MDRestoration@cbf.org. For more details and to sign up to help go to http://www.cbf.org/page.aspx?pid=195&cgid=1&ceid=735&cerid=0&cdt=4%2f21%2f2012.

District Award Nominations Due April 25

The District Annual Awards Dinner is coming up on May 12th and we should start thinking about awards for our adult leaders and parents. As in the past, CMD has several different awards for which your adults are eligible. All you have to do is to nominate them. The first three awards listed below are competitive. After all nominations are received, the District awards review team will go over them and determine which nominee will receive the award for this year. The last award, The Catoctin Mountain Peak Award, is not competitive. Everyone submitted for this award will receive it. Truly, all you have to do is make your submittals. The cutoff date for submittals is April 25.

Cubmaster of the Year 2012
http://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.aspx?id=109922

Scoutmaster of the Year 2012
http://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.aspx?id=109923

Scouting Family of the Year 2012
http://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.aspx?id=109924

Catoctin Mountain District Peak Award 2012
http://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.aspx?id=109926

District Dinner May 12th

The Catoctin Mountain District Awards Dinner will be held Saturday May 12th at the Cozy Restaurant in Thurmont. The doors will be open at 6:45pm and dinner will be served at 7:15pm. The cost is $20 per adult, $12 for children 7-12 years old. **You must RSVP by May 7th to layman2@verizon.net**.

County Wide Spring Join Scouting Event in Baker Park- Saturday, April 28, 10:00AM - 2:00PM

All Scouters, this event is coming together, but we need everyone's help to make it a success! **WE NEED EVERY UNIT TO PRINT OUT FLYERS AND POST THEM IN YOUR AREAS- AT CHURCHES, STORES, WHEREVER YOU CAN IN PUBLIC PLACES WHERE PARENTS WITH ELEMENTARY AGE BOYS MIGHT FREQUENT.** Pizza places, ice cream stores, and parks are good choices, for example. Use your imagination and initiative. **If no one knows about it, no one will come.** This is the most effective advertising I can think of. We hope it results in some new boys joining Cub Scouting in your unit. For you Boy Scout units, more Cub Scouts now equals more Boy Scouts for you later! I have flyers from Council, although they are black and white, and I can get them to you and get more copies- contact me. Alternatively, you can print out color copies (see links below for Word and PDF versions) and distribute them. If every unit were to put out 20 flyers, we would have great coverage. I have contacted the local radio stations asking for service announcements and posted on several websites as well. If anyone has any other ideas, I am open to suggestions and help.

This event is also open to current scouts for fun if they want to stop by. It would be great and helpful, however, if they brought a buddy who might want to join. It is a JOIN SCOUTING event, but having more boys there attracts attention.

I also need 4 more adult volunteers, ideally 2 from each District, to make sure we have enough coverage. I particularly would like one very experienced Scouter from AT to man the greeting table with the CM Vice Chair of Membership to help parents with Scouting information. Please distribute this to your den leaders and active parents and encourage them to get involved. You can contact me, Rick Millward, Vice Chair of Membership, AT District, at rjcjmill@verizon.net or at 240-675-4037. Thank you.

Word format at http://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.aspx?id=110490 and in

PDF format at http://www.doubleknot.com/openrosters/DocDownload.aspx?id=109617 .

Merit Badge Corner submitted by Bill Desmond

Merit Badge Counselor Training

The next Merit Badge Counselor Training session will be held on May 15 in Thurmont at the Ambulance Company building starting at 7:00 PM. Dave Place will be the trainer. There is no cost for this training, but advance registration is required. To register, send an email to Dave at david.place@crew270.com showing MBC Registration in the title. Our appreciation goes out to the more than 50 persons received this training at the March 20 session held in Frederick.

Merit Badge Counselor Quiz

Question: True or False - A Merit Badge Counselor who works only with a single unit needs only be approved by the unit Committee or Scoutmaster.

Answer: False. All Merit Badge Counselors must be approved by either the District or Council Advancement Committee. Here in the Catoctin Mountain District, this approval has been delegated by Council to the District Merit Badge Dean. There is no such position as a "unit merit badge counselor." While there is no cost to an individual who serves in this position, all counselors must be registered with BSA, submit an adult application at initial approval, regardless of any other position currently held, be current in youth protection training, and be trained in the duties of the position. In addition, a Merit Badge Counselor Information Form must be submitted to the District annually.

Merit Badge Update submitted by Dave Place

Here's what is upcoming in the world of merit badges...

Kayaking - Estimated release: May 2012
Description: A basic-level merit badge for flat-water kayaking — whitewater kayaking will still fall under Whitewater merit badge.

Search and Rescue - *Estimated release: June 2012*
Description: Scouts won't fly helicopters, but they'll get practice in finding and rescuing people in case a real emergency ever happens.

Game Design - *Estimated release: 2013*
Description: Slated to include both traditional games and video games, this sure-to-be-popular merit badge will test Scouts' creativity, computer skills, and planning abilities.

Coming Soon - Merit Badge Changes

Cooking - *Update expected by end of 2012*
Details: Coming soon, but I'm hearing rumors that it will better incorporate the BSA's healthy living initiatives and the newest FDA food guidance.

The Last Three Released...

Welding - ***Released on Feb. 24, 2012***
Requirements:
http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges/welding.aspx
Opportunities in the welding field are endless, and Scouts earning their welding merit badge can not only explore the fundamentals of welding, but also learn about the different career paths within the industry.

Chess - ***Released in September 2011***
Requirements:
http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges/mb-CHESS.aspx. It's a game that requires critical thinking skills, deep concentration, and abstract reasoning. The Boy Scouts of America introduces the Chess merit badge encouraging Scouts to enjoy an ancient game while acquiring life skills necessary for today.

Robotics - *Released on April 11, 2011*
Requirements:
http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges/mb-ROBO.aspx. Robotics is an exciting and dynamic field that has transformed into the premier vehicle for hands-on delivery of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts. Through the creation of the robotics merit badge, the Boy Scouts of America has joined with LEGO Education to give Scouts access to the latest in robotics technology, preparing them for life after school and potential careers in the various STEM industries. Among the requirements for Boy Scouts will be to learn safety with robotics, general information about the robotics industry and the career opportunities in robotics. Additionally, Scouts will have to design, build, program and test robots. They must demonstrate all of these abilities with their counselors and also learn about competitions in robotics.

CONNECTING OUR CHILDREN TO NATURE

The Catoctin Forest Alliance (CFA) is offering a one day conference at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, MD on **May 4, 2012** from 8:00am until 4:00pm. The focus of the meeting will be to raise awareness of the importance of connecting our children to nature for their health and well being as well as for the future health of the environment.

Our keynote speaker will be **Richard Louv**, author of *The Nature Principle:Reconnecting with Life in the Virtual Age* and *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature Deficit Disorder*. Founding chairman of the Children & Nature Network, Louv is well-known for supporting the idea that "The future will belong to the nature-smart — those individuals, families, businesses, and political leaders who develop a deeper understanding of the transformative power of the natural world and who balance the virtual with the real. The more high-tech we become, the more nature we need." To learn more about Mr. Louv go to **www.richardlouv.com**.

Additional featured speakers at the conference include (alphabetical order):

Julie Dieguez Coordinator of the Maryland No Child Left Inside Coalition
Mary Hardcastle EE Manager Parks and People Foundation
Gary Hedges Science Specialist for Maryland Dept. of Education
Mel Poole Superintendent Catoctin Mountain Park
Joe Richardson Owner Bar-T Ranch & Mountainside Challenge and Retreat Center
Nita Settina Superintendent Maryland State Parks
Britt Slattery DNR Director of Conservation Education
Coreen Weilminster President Maryland Assoc. Environmental & Outdoor Educators (MAEOE)

Come to the conference to light your environmental education fire, hear about how teachers are bringing environmental literacy into their classes and get ideas for bringing your children closer to nature. Experts from throughout our State and region will share their knowledge. Teachers will be sharing their success stories. This is an opportunity to increase awareness of the importance of environmental literacy. Connecting our children with nature is not only beneficial for their own health and well being; it is critical to the health of the environment. Our children are the future stewards of the land and they won't be able to care about and protect the environment unless they know and better understand nature.

Conference Details

Date/Time: Friday, May 4, 2012 8:00 am until 4:00 pm
Location: Mount St. Mary's University Marion Burk Knott Auditorium, Main Campus
16300 Old Emmitsburg Rd., Emmitsburg, MD 21727. **Park in Lot 10**

Fees (light morning refreshments and lunch included):
General admission $35 CFA members $30 Students $15
Senior Citizens (65 and older) $15
On line registration is available at **www.catoctinforall.org/mom**.
If you wish to pay by check, fill out the online registration and then mail a check payable to **CFA** along with your contact information, to: **CFA PO Box 411, Thurmont, MD 21788.**
Registrations must be received by April 29, 2012.

Environmental Education (EE) Information You Will Take Away from this Conference

School administrators: Find out about the EE resources in your region and successful applications

Teachers: Hear actual experiences about how EE can be incorporated into your lessons

Community Members: Find places to volunteer and promote EE

Students: Learn about EE and get ideas for future careers

Thanks to our partners and sponsors:

Slacklining submitted by Dave Place

Walk the line? After review, the BSA gives slacklining a (qualified) **OK.** Find two trees, grab some friends, and work on your balance: Slacklining is now an approved Scouting activity — with qualifications. After a thorough review, the BSA's Health and Safety team officially OK'd the extreme sport for all Scout units, districts, and councils.

This addictive, challenging, community-based activity that involves walking across a two-inch tightrope ... as seen in the Super Bowl by Eagle Scout Andy Lewis during the Madonna halftime show. At the time, though, the BSA hadn't ruled on slacklining. Times change, and now your Scouts have the go-ahead to follow in Eagle Scout Andy Lewis' famous footsteps. Well, provided your Scouts also follow new BSA safety rules outlined below.

First, a reminder about what exactly slacklining is. Gibbon Slacklines, the brand used during Eagle Scout Andy Lewis' Super Bowl show, describes the sport as "the act of balancing along a narrow, flexible piece of webbing which is low to the ground and usually anchored between two trees. It's not just for epic performances, but rather something anyone can do in their own backyard."

Your backyard is only the beginning. It's not hard to imagine Troops, Teams, and Crews setting up slacklines wherever their unit's next Scouting adventure takes them. And now that slacklining has the BSA's blessing, anything is possible. If Lewis gets his way, that would include a Slacklining merit badge. "If that happens, I'm interested in helping write the pamphlet," he said.

But first, read the…
Official BSA guidelines on Slacklining

Slacklining is an adventure program growing in popularity. As with any activity involving height and motion, there is risk involved. Before units, Districts, or Councils decide to promote or host slackline activities and other adventure sports, they must follow the Sweet 16 of BSA Safety and submit a tour and activity plan for Council review with a description that includes the slacklining activity.

Staff members for these types of events are responsible for learning proper setup, operational guidelines, and safety techniques. Equipment used for these activities must be designed for the adventure sport industry and will be exposed to extreme forces. Therefore, it should not be used for other purposes. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Fall precautions should include spotters or crash pads. Stepping off the line safely is recommended when a participant feels he or she is about to fall. Trees used for anchors should be protected from damage and be at least 8 inches in diameter. The line should never be more than 3 feet high.
Never allow more than one participant on the line at a time. Acrobatics (any time your head is lower than your torso) are prohibited.

Reposted from the Northstar District (Heart of America Council) newsletter dated March 13, 2012

Venturing Leader Specific Training

A number of people have asked me to conduct a VLST course that doesn't fall on a weekend. Because the VLST course is a minimum of 6 hours and hard to break in two or more parts I have never done it before. However, we are going to give it a shot. On Tuesday and Thursday nights, May 1st & 3rd, we will be holding a VLST class from 7:00PM - 10:30PM. You must be at both sessions to get your "Trained" patch. Cost for the class is $5.00 - You must RSVP (advisor@crew270.com) in advance for this class.

Please remember that all Advisors and Associate Advisors must be trained by the end of this year in order to re-charter. NCAC policy also states that all adult leaders (including committee members) should be trained before taking a position or if not possible, within 90 days of taking that position.

Merit Badge Counselor Training (D76)

Merit Badge Counselor Training for new counselors and for previously approved counselors who have not yet completed this training will be presented on May 15, 2012 at the Thurmont Ambulance Co., 27 N. Church St, Thurmont, MD. Training will begin at 7:00 PM and be completed by 8:30 PM. Advance registration is required by sending an email to David Place (advisor@crew270.com) providing name, unit affiliation, YPT expiration date and BSA number (if you have one). The email should be titled "MBC Training Registration."

International Scouting Newsletter

The April issue of "Scouting Around the World" is available for download at http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/openrosters/DocDownload.aspx?id=110022.

Communications Channels

The Blue Blaze

If you know Scout leaders who are not getting the District newsletter *The Blue Blaze*, please have them go to http://scouting-cmd.org/email/form.php and sign up. The District newsletter comes out every month and updates are sent as needed.

Council publications

To get on the mailing list for Council publications – *Capital Comments, NCAC E-Source* and the *Venturing Newsletter*—go to http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/openrosters/ViewOrgPageLink.asp?LinkKey=18902&orgkey=1988.

NCAC also has a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NCACBSA

Our Council website www.boyscouts-ncac.org offers a wealth of information as well.

Eagle Issues submitted by Dan Speace (excerpt from *Advancement Newsletter 2012*)

One hundred years ago, Arthur Rose Eldred became the first Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. That was on August 21, 1912. Since then, 2 million other Scouts have attained this distinction. To celebrate, those youth who earn the Eagle Scout rank during 2012 have the opportunity to wear the 1912-2012 Eagle Scout Centennial patch. The version of the red, white and blue badge pictured here is now available at Scout shops.

If you are interested in subscribing to the Advancement Newsletter, send a message to advancement.team@scouting.org with "Subscribe" in the subject line. Indicate your name, email address, and Council in the message text.

New Research Illustrates the Impact of Eagle Scouts submitted by Norm Feldser, District Eagle Advisor

A new independent study was recently released that provides evidence confirming what Scouts and Scouters have known for 100 years: becoming an Eagle Scout makes a huge difference in a young man's life. The study conducted by Baylor University – Merit Beyond the Badge – found that Eagle Scouts are more likely than men who have never been in Scouting to:

- Have higher levels of planning and preparation skills
- Be goal-oriented, and network with others
- Be in a leadership position at their place of employment or local community
- Report having closer relationships with family and friends
- Volunteer for religious and nonreligious organizations
- Donate money to charitable groups
- Work with others to improve their neighborhoods

For more details of the study, go to http://www.marketwatch.com/story/new-research-illustrates-tremendous-impact-of-eagle-scouts-on-communities-nation-2012-04-10

Trolley Trail Clean Up

submitted by Carie Stafford

Two to three times a year Boy Scout Troop 270 takes a Saturday morning and picks up trash on the Trolley Trail in Thurmont, starting at Memorial Park and heading down to the town library. In past years, there has been an interesting range of items found on the trail or in the creek that runs alongside it. This past Saturday, March 17 was no exception. At least 5-7 lawn size garbage bags full of trash, a heaping pile of rusty metal, lawn mower, toilet, oil tank (200 gallon size) and more strange items came from the Trolley Trail on this visit. This is a community service effort the local Boy Scouts, sponsored by the Thurmont Lions Club who championed the Trail, will continue to perform.

Pictured (from left) are: Ben Bostian; John Wright, P. McCardell, Walt Ellenberg, J. Snyder, Dwayne Snyder, J. Dumbrowski; R. McCardell, B. McCardell, Sean McCardell and D. Stafford. Not pictured: P. Wright; T. Ellenberg, M. Bramson; K. Lorenz, JB Bramson, D. Bramson, Steve Vaughn, P. Norris, Dennis Norris, Julie Bostian, J. Bostian, Vince Cover, K. Cover, P. Stellitano.