



Pine Tree District
Newsletter
- May 2020 -

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www.Scouting.org
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Your District Leadership Team

Don't worry, Journey to Excellence scoring will be adjusted in light of COVID-19

~Bryan Wendell

When you planned a big spring event for your pack, troop, crew or ship last year, you weren't counting on a global pandemic disrupting everything.

The same can be said about the volunteers who created the 2020 **Journey to Excellence** scorecards.

Journey to Excellence, often shortened to JTE, is a self-evaluation tool that lets unit leaders see, quantitatively, how well their unit is meeting the goals of Scouting. JTE scorecards are updated each year to reflect feedback from unit leaders like you. (Want an overview of JTE? [Read our explainer here.](#))

"We made certain assumptions in creating the JTE standards," says Neil Lupton, chairman of the BSA's National Assessment and Evaluation Committee. "Those assumptions fail in the face of the coronavirus."

That's why the committee has announced that it will re-evaluate and revise JTE requirements once the coronavirus threat is diminished and the country's path forward becomes more clear.

"As always, JTE should be helpful and encouraging to all in Scouting," says Jeff Rand, Lupton's professional counterpart on the committee and leader of the BSA's performance management team.

Scouting isn't on pause

While JTE requirements will need to change for 2020, it's worth noting that Scouting itself hasn't been paused during the lockdown.

It's been truly inspiring to see Scouts continue **meeting, serving others** and **having fun** while everyone is at home. And the BSA's brilliant **Scouting at Home** initiative, developed in a matter of days, gives families exciting, meaningful activities they can safely enjoy at home.

But some JTE standards cannot realistically be met during stay-at-home orders — at least not as written on the scorecard. That's why Lupton and his fellow volunteers are planning to revise the standards once it's reasonable to do so. The Scouting at Home activities you're doing now will meet many of those new requirements.

"In the interim, units, districts, and councils should use the Journey to Excellence standards in addition to other planning tools, but all should be tempered with realism and with the need for safety for all," Lupton says. "As far as revisions to the Journey to Excellence standards or changes in the requirements for gold, silver and bronze, it's premature to make any such decisions."



How you can help

JTE is a grassroots effort built by Scouters, for Scouters. Longtime readers of this blog know that each year, we ask for your help in creating the next year's scorecards.

That community-driven effort isn't stopping now.

Lupton and Rand encourage Scouters with suggestions about modifications to JTE during 2020 to send them to jte@scouting.org. That's also where you can send any questions you might have about JTE and its implementation this year.

I'll close with this: Just by reading this post, you're proving how much you care about Scouting and its life-changing effects on young people.

If you've read this far, it's because you're invested in JTE. And if you're invested in JTE, it means you want to deliver the best possible program for your Scouts or Venturers.

Thanks for all you do — now and always.

Way to Go Troops 43



Evergreen Cemetery Clean-up



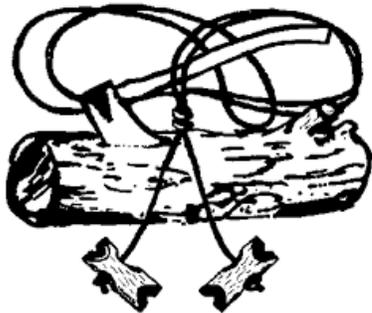
Submit your photos to Ken so your unit can be recognized in the next newsletter.

Always record your hours online at

<https://servicehours.scouting.org/UI/Security/Login.aspx>

It's Time to start thinking POPCORN!

- **NEW - Sea Salt Light Microwave Popcorn**
- **White Ruby on the regular sale!**
- **Winners Circle Prizes to Include PS5, Xbox X & Nintendo Switch Lite (\$5,000 level prizes)**
- **New Super Seller Prize – Disney Trip for 4!**
- **Added Incentive for New Units selling**
- **Designate Unit Popcorn Kernel-attend Saturday August 8th**



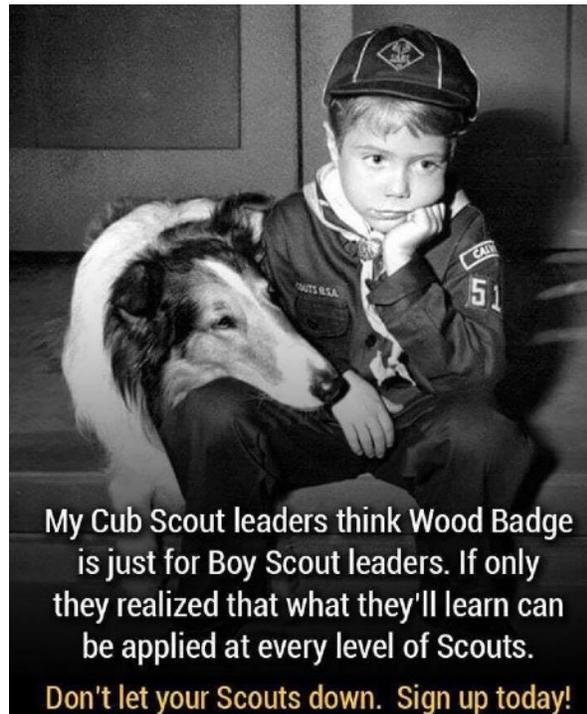
Wood Badge 2020

<https://scoutingevent.com/296-wb2020>

Orientation: Wed., September 9, 2020

First Weekend: September 24 -27, 2020

Second Weekend: October 16 -18, 2020



My Cub Scout leaders think Wood Badge is just for Boy Scout leaders. If only they realized that what they'll learn can be applied at every level of Scouts.

Don't let your Scouts down. Sign up today!



Revised Scheduled 2020

Day Camp, Saturday, June 27
Weekend, Friday, July 10- Sunday, July 12
Weekend, Friday, July 17- Sunday, July 19
Weekend, Friday, July 24- Sunday, July 26
Day Camp, Saturday, August 1
Day Camp, Saturday, August 15

<https://scoutingevent.com/296-residentcamp2020>

Please check out the link above for the registration details and camp information. We can't wait to see you at camp.

Special sign up by May 30, register for as little as \$10 deposit per person. Scout fees must be paid in full by June 15 to get the early bird rate.



Ripley Rendezvous 2020

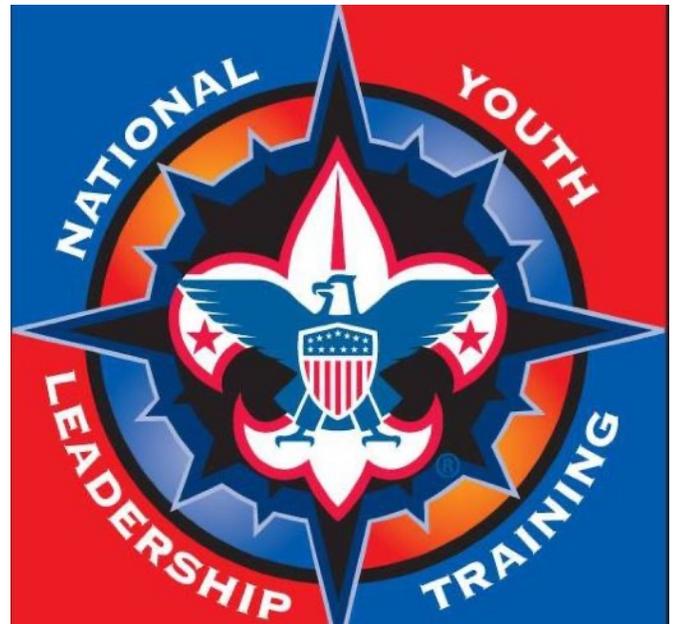
"Search and Rescue"

NOW!!!! October 9-11

www.scoutingevent.com/296-2020Ripley

<https://scoutingevent.com/296-2020NYLT>

- WHEN: August 16-21, 2020
- Where: Parker Scout Camp
- Cost: \$155 before June 15, \$175 between June 16 and Aug 10, \$185 after Aug 10
- National Youth Leadership Training is an exciting, action-packed program designed to provide all 13- to 20-year-old youth members of the Boy Scouts of America with leadership skills and experience they can use in their home units and in other situations demanding leadership of self and others.
- Now accepting Staff Applications emailed to Ken or Holly



kenneth.toole@scouting.org
holly.carlson@scouting.org

Our Live Virtual Campfire will be starting soon...
Thanks to all who sent in videos to add to our live campfire!



Elk River Troops 98 & 99
Brainerd Troops 43
Aquatics Staff
Melrose Troop 68
CITS (Counselors in Training)
St. Cloud Troop & Pack 13

Park Rapids Troop 58
Theme Leaders
Swanville Troop & Crew 33
Camp Directors
Staples-Motley Troop 61
Zimmerman Troop 91

Parker Scout Camp www.bsacmc.org

Our next Virtual Campfire is scheduled for June 5th. Visit the Parker Scout Camp Facebook page for more details. We would love for you to submit a skit for the next campfire. It can be a joke, a song or a traditional skit.



Pine Tree District Roundtable

We will be doing a Zoom Roundtable this month. Loren is in the process of working with his fellow Roundtable Commissioners to put together a fantastic Roundtable for you with information on the training you can be doing right now and a bunch of resources you can use to have unit meetings right now.

Topic: Pine Tree Roundtable
Time: May 12, 2020 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

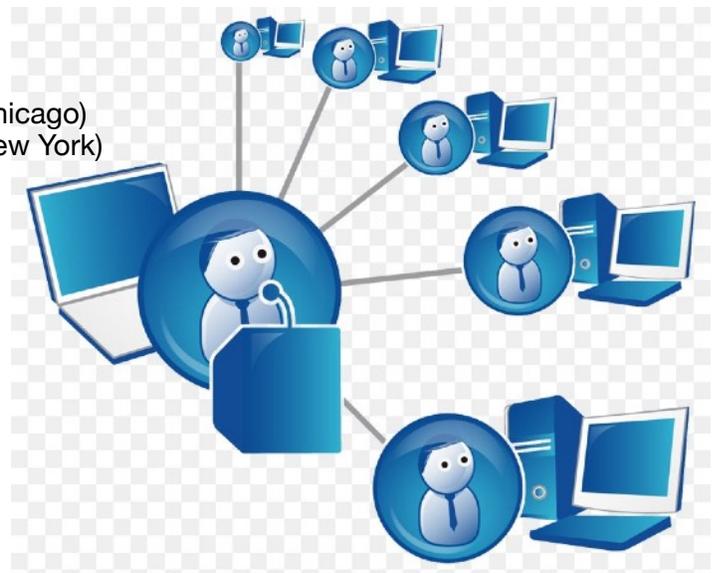
Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83783902995?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83783902995?pwd=L3ZJQ1g5OU4xNmhuV2p2Qmk0UFI6UT09)
pwd=L3ZJQ1g5OU4xNmhuV2p2Qmk0UFI6UT09

Meeting ID: 837 8390 2995
Password: PineTree

One tap mobile
+13126266799,,83783902995#,,1#,546371# US (Chicago)
+19292056099,,83783902995#,,1#,546371# US (New York)

Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 837 8390 2995
Password: 546371



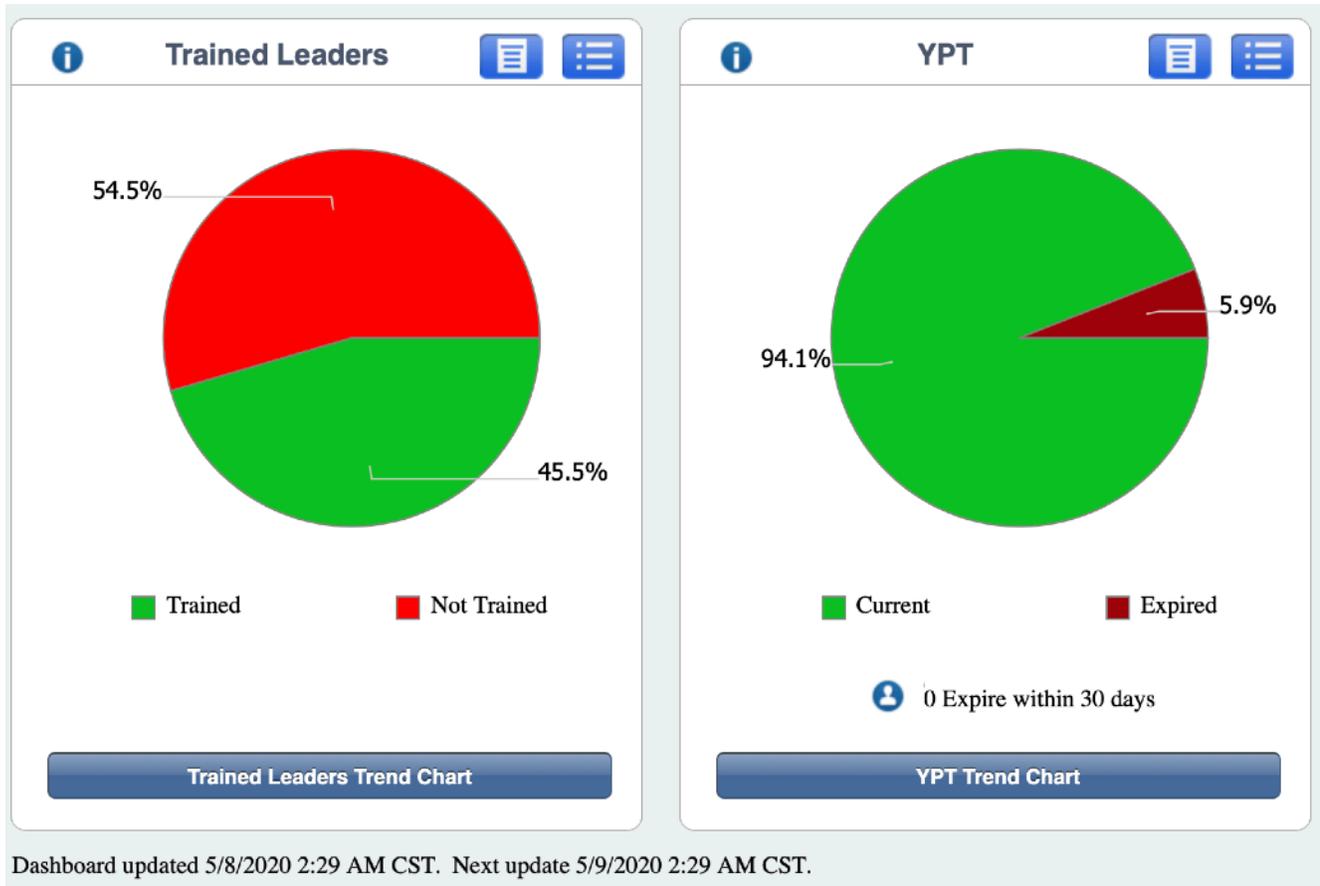
Please think about the Pine Tree Cub Scout Lock-in and when you think would be a good time to reschedule this event to. We are planning to discuss this event at the Roundtable. Please bring some dates and times to the meeting that we can discuss.

Additional topics for Roundtable

- School Night for Scouting
- NYLT
- Virtual Camp Fire
- Council Banquet
- Popcorn
- Camp
- Friends of Scouting



Training Update



It is our goal to get at least 60% of our leaders trained in their positions. As you can see we have just over 40% of our leaders trained. This means we have leaders who are doing a job that they may not know all of the ins and outs of, they may not know all of the resources that are available to them and they may not be giving their Scouts the best program they are capable of delivering. We want every leader to know they can do a great job and make it easier for them.

Up-Coming Training Events **None are currently scheduled!**

PLEASE DO YOUR TRAINING ONLINE

Training is also available on the my.scouting.org website. You can log into the site and watch the videos. Do not let the number of videos intimidate you because many of them are very short but still very informative. Training helps you and will make your program better!

There are step-by-step instruction on how to create your account. It's going to take you to get us to that goal of 60% Please start today and make Scouting better for your leaders of tomorrow.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
CENTRAL MINNESOTA COUNCIL



100% Trained Scout Leader Recognition Form

The following is required to qualify for the Central Minnesota Council, BSA.

Trained Scout Leader Award

Type of Training

Date Completed

Youth Protection Training _____

Before the first Meeting _____

First 30 Days _____

Position Specific _____

Intro to Outdoor Leader Skills (Asst. SM/ SM only) _____

(If you can attach a copy of the Training Card you received or the Certificate you printed if the training was done online, that would be very helpful but is not required)

Name of Applicant _____

Pack Number _____

Phone Number _____

E-Mail _____

Current Pack Position _____

District Approval _____

Return this form to your District Executive or drop by the Central MN Council, BSA office.



Dear Fellow Arrowmen,

We are very disappointed to have been forced to cancel our Spring Conclave due to the extension of the Stay-At-Home order. We are looking for ideas for how we can put together a work day to help prepare the camp for the up-coming summer. The work we do during Spring Conclave helps make the camp safer for our Cub Scouts and helps the caretaker with the facility maintenance such as mowing the grounds.

The national organization has announced the canceling of NOAC this year.

The Spring Feather is available online at <https://www.bsacmc.org/order-of-the-arrow> please visit the website and download your copy today.

Also we will be updating the Facebook page more regularly with news, information and photos be sure to Like the page.

<https://www.facebook.com/naguonabelodge/>

If you would like to know what is going on in your lodge reach out to the Lodge Chief and we can get you an invitation to the next LEC. We are also looking for a Lodge Secretary if you are interested again reach out to Adam. naguonabechief31@gmail.com

Again, please keep those Vigil nominations coming. You can email them to Loren - nerolb@charter.net

In Service,
Adam, Zach, Loren and Kenneth



Remember to like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/naguonabelodge>



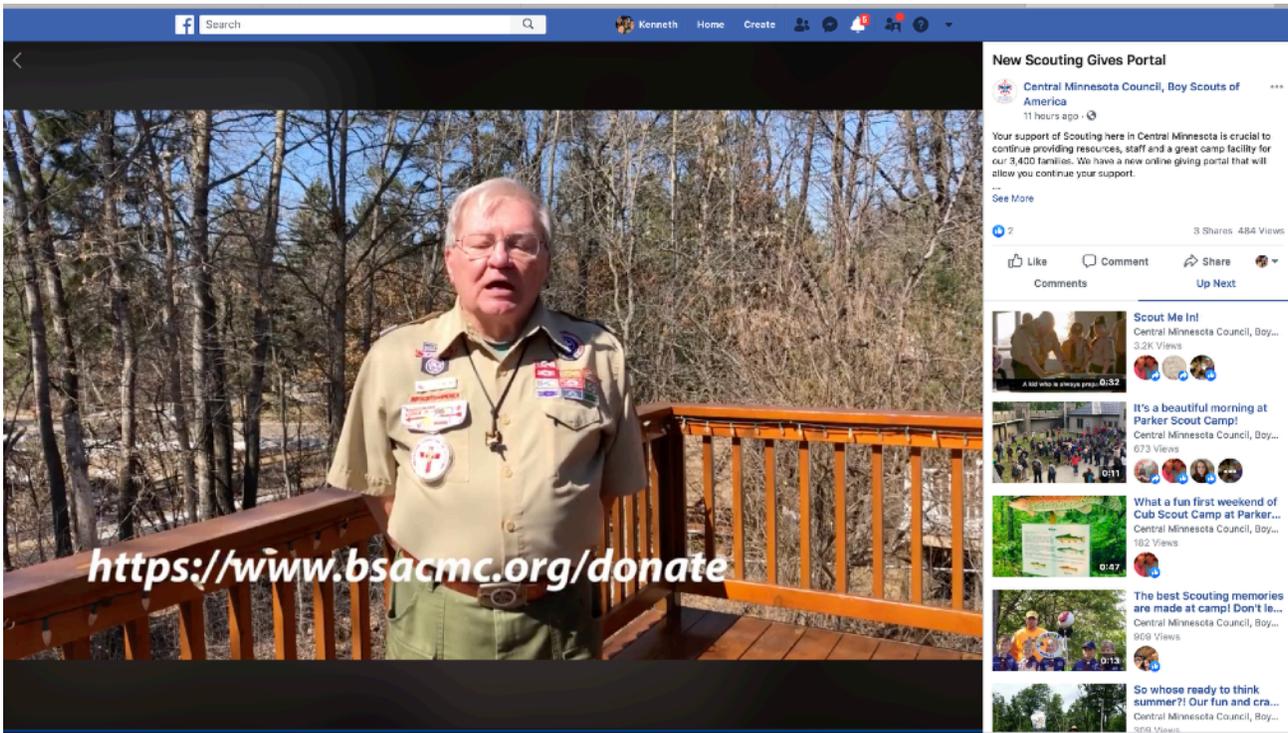
2021 National Jamboree

Face the Challenge

Summit Bechtel Reserve

Get your spot now and start fundraising for this Mountain Top Experience.

<https://scoutingevent.com/296-nationaljamboreecmc>



Our new online giving portal is now available for you. We know that many of our fellow Scouting Family members are experiencing a new set of challenges during this pandemic. We are here to support you. There are new campership applications available and plenty of resources to help you #ScoutOn. For those of you that can give please know that whatever you can do to support Your Council we are greatly appreciative. Give the video message a quick watch and visit the website. We need your support. Also remember that under the CARES ACT you can claim \$300 of charitable giving.

FAQ's on Merit Badge Counselors

From the May-June 2020 issue of *Scouting* magazine

To earn a merit badge, a young person must work with a registered merit badge counselor. Here are some frequently asked questions about these important adult volunteers.

What are the requirements to be a merit badge counselor?

Counselors must be men or women of good character who are 18 or older with skills and education in the subjects they cover. They also must be registered as an adult BSA leader and apply for the position of merit badge counselor (position code 42). They also must have completed Youth Protection Training within the past two years.

What training and expertise must a counselor have?

There are no specific requirements for most badges, although the counselor must be knowledgeable about the topic. (Oftentimes this means involvement in the field as a career or hobby.) For a handful of badges, mostly in aquatics and shooting sports, special qualifications and/or current certifications are required; these are listed in section 7.0.1.1 of the [Guide to Advancement](#).

Who approves merit badge counselors?

The council advancement committee, although responsibility is sometimes delegated to the district advancement committee. Council or district approval is required even for counselors who serve only Scouts in their own units. The advancement committee should maintain a current list of registered and approved counselors and make it available to the leaders of troops, crews and ships.

How does a merit badge counselor get approved?

In addition to submitting an adult application, a potential counselor must submit the [Merit Badge Counselor Information form](#) (No. 34405) to the council or district advancement committee, depending on local policies. On this form, the applicant lists which badges he or she wants to counsel, plus relevant training and experience. There's no fee to register as a merit badge counselor.

Can't a Scoutmaster counsel any merit badge automatically?

No. A unit leader must register as a counselor and be approved for the merit badges in question.

Does a merit badge counselor have to work with any Scout who asks?

On the Merit Badge Counselor Information sheet, the counselor can specify whether he or she wants to work with any Scouts or just those from specified units.

How does Youth Protection affect merit badge counseling?

As in all Scouting activities, no one-on-one contact is permitted, and two-deep leadership is required. However, in the case of merit badge counseling, one of the Scout's parents can serve as the second required adult.

Is internet-based counseling permitted?

The preferred method is face-to-face interaction. However, councils can develop procedures to allow counseling via the internet. See section 5.0.8.0 of the [Guide to Advancement](#) for more information.

Where can I learn more?

An excellent resource is the pamphlet [A Guide for Merit Badge Counseling](#) (No. 512-065).

Eagle Extensions

~Bryan Wendell

The BSA has a message to young people concerned that the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak will prevent them from completing Eagle Scout rank requirements before their 18th birthday: Don't worry; we've got your back.

During this unprecedented interruption to Scouting nationwide, the BSA has released **new guidance on advancement during COVID-19**. This includes:

- Time extensions for qualifying Scouts and Venturers working on the Eagle Scout, Summit and Quartermaster awards. Local councils will have the authority to grant this extension through the end of September 2020.
- The ability to accept electronic signatures for rank advancement and award applications — effective now through the end of September 2020.
- An option to complete Scoutmaster conferences via videoconferencing. (Section 4.2.3.5 of the *Guide to Advancement* says Scoutmasters “should not” conduct Scoutmaster conferences online; it doesn't say “must not.” The new COVID-19 guidance clarifies that this practice is OK, as long as Youth Protection rules are followed.)
- An option for parents or other adults in a Cub Scout's family to sign off on Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements — effective now through the end of July 2020.
- An option for Scoutmasters to allow time missed during the COVID-19 outbreak to count toward requirements for participation and positions of responsibility.

Here's what else you need to know.

Time extensions for Eagle Scout, Summit and Quartermaster awards

Normally granted only in rare circumstances, the BSA and its local councils will allow extensions for Life Scouts needing more time to finish their Eagle Scout requirements. The authority for councils to grant this extension is effective immediately and continues through Sept. 30, 2020.

Extensions also are available for Venturers needing to finish Summit Award requirements and Sea Scouts needing to finish Quartermaster Award requirements beyond their 21st birthday.

These extensions are reviewed case by case, and not all Scouts will qualify. To get an extension through a local council, Scouts must meet the following requirements:

1. It can be established that **COVID-19 disruptions were the only circumstances that delayed work** on Eagle Scout/Summit/Quartermaster advancement requirements, such as the service project or merit badges. If any other causes were involved, the extension request must go to the National Council following the process outlined in the *Guide to Advancement*.
2. Extensions shall only be granted to youth in Scouts BSA who have **already achieved Life rank**.
3. When the council receives a COVID-19-related request for a time extension, the council reviews the request and approves it if appropriate. A written response stating the outcome of the extension request must go to the youth. **If approved, the notification must be attached to the youth's Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster rank application.**
4. For Eagle, the extension must not exceed 3 months from the youth's 18th birthday; for Summit/Quartermaster, the extension must not exceed 3 months from the youth's 21st.
5. Upon turning 18, the Scout **must submit a completed adult application and successfully complete Youth Protection training**. Their participant code will now be UP for SBSA or VP for Venturing and Sea Scouting.
6. Extension requests for more than 3 months beyond the youth's 18th/21st birthday must be sent to the National Service Center following the process outlined in the GTA.

| | | | May | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|------|----|----|-----------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 District Comm | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10  | 11 | 12 Roundtable | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25  | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |
| | | | June | | | |
| | 1 | 2 District Comm | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14  | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21  | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Parker Day Camp |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

For more information on events in Pine Tree District or Central Minnesota Council visit
<http://www.bsacmc.org/#!event-calendar/c1xcb>

Your input on the District Newsletter is always welcome please contact Ken with your input
kenneth.toole@scouting.org

Dear Friends and Scouting Family,

We continue to face the challenges of this pandemic and continue to strive to find stability in these testing times. We are following the news and guidance sent out from the national office, state and local government and making and adapting plans accordingly. We are still hopeful as we make plans for the future, which includes summer camp and programs and events in the coming months. We ask each of you, our Scouting family, too please remain flexible and hopeful with us as we move forward.

The Council leadership team and executive board have put together a plan for Cub Scout camp at Parker Scout Camp, which has moved our dates of opening back a bit and we await further guidance from the Governor's team on if and when we can move forward with this plan. We will make announcements with the Scoutbook email and direct email as we are able. Please if you haven't been getting emails from the Council office, such as, the message that came out around 5pm on May 8th, let me know so I can get you added to the distribution list. Also if your unit isn't using Scoutbook now is the time to get onto that platform so you are getting the current information.

I know this is not a great time for many of our families as some of you face being furloughed or your employment is uncertain but if you can make a Friends of Scouting contribution we really need your support. Any gift large or small will help us greatly right now. As you can imagine having to cancel so many events has hurt your council and we need your support. You are vital to our survival. Yes, I would love to stand in front of your unit and make this ask in person and I promise you as soon as I can visit your unit meeting and check in with you personally I will do that but sadly that is not possible right now but again please if you can make a contribution now Please Help.

The Wilderness Engineers are planning a work-day for Parker Scout Camp in the near future as once again we wait on guidance on when we can start to get together. This work-day will be particularly important as we were forced to cancel our Spring Conclave.

For those who were elected to the Order of the Arrow your first opportunity to complete your Ordeal Weekend will be this fall. For our Scouts BSA units in need of an election please be sure to stay in contact with Blake or Mr. Reuter to schedule those elections. We have a method to complete those election online now or you can wait till we can meet in person but please make a plan now to have an election either way.

Stay safe friends. Your District Leadership is here to help you if you need us. Feel free to reach out so we can help. Look forward to seeing you online for Roundtable.

In Service,

Ken