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SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2020

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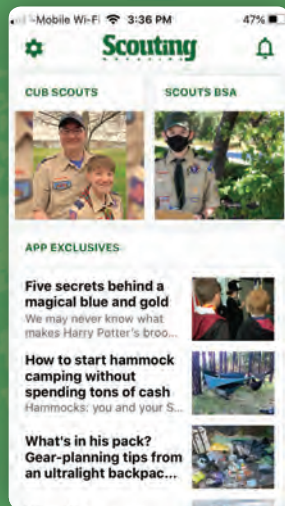
- ▶ Scout Camp Opens Its Doors to Special-Needs Youth
- ▶ Ensure Healthy Recruiting with a WOW Event
- ▶ How Scouting Can Appeal to Home-Schoolers
- ▶ Safety Quiz: Communicable Diseases

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NEW

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Scouting

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The Future of *Scouting* Magazine Begins Right Now



"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity."

It was Albert Einstein — who knew a thing or two about solving problems by using technology — who said this. And it is us to whom it applies now.

Due to the extraordinary financial pressures that Boy Scouts of America is facing, we made the difficult decision to cease the printing of *Scouting* magazine.

The reallocation of the significant resources previously dedicated to printing will help the BSA national service center to better do its No. 1 job. That is, the job of assisting our local councils in presenting the world's best youth program to the boys and girls of America.

But that doesn't mean there will be no more *Scouting* magazine.

I am thrilled to announce that the brand-new *Scouting* magazine app is live and available for download right now. I urge you, *Scouting* magazine reader, to give it a shot.

Before, we could only update you on the *Scouting* news you need in five printed issues a year. Now, you get updates every day.

Before, we could only provide invaluable advice to the invaluable leaders of all the Scout programs when our print schedule allowed it. Now, we can give you that advice when you need it.

Even better: Everything you loved about the old *Scouting* magazine is available in the new *Scouting* magazine.

If you're a Scout leader looking for tips on how to run your unit so it allows for advancement, fun and good times in the great outdoors, it's in *Scouting* magazine.

If you're a parent looking for advice from experts on how to raise your kids — both in and out of Scouting — it's in *Scouting* magazine.

In short, if you're interested in anything and everything related to Scouting and raising a family, you're going to want to check out the new *Scouting* magazine.

You'll notice multiple mentions of our new app scattered throughout the electronic file that you're reading right now.

That's because every story here is available in the app, in a format that's just as easy to read on your mobile device as it was to read on printed pages in the old days.

And best of all: The magazine continues to be available in its new digital format — free to all adults registered with the BSA.

"To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination ..."

Einstein said that, too. And we agree.

Give the new *Scouting* magazine app a try. It's available now in the App Store and Google Play.



Yours in Scouting,

MICHAEL GOLDMAN

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INSPIRING STORIES

This Scouts BSA Troop Has a Unique Relationship With Scouts From the Kentucky School for the Blind

One of the highlights of the year for the Scouts from Troop 10, chartered to the Kentucky School for the Blind in Louisville, Ky., is their Pinewood Derby race.

Cars zoom down the track. Scouts cheer like crazy. Then the track resets, and the next round begins.

The race is nearly identical to all the other Pinewood Derby races being held across the country. Due to the different abilities of the Troop 10 Scouts, however, the process of getting there is a little bit different.

All of the Troop 10 members are legally blind. That makes carving a Pinewood Derby car on their own very difficult.

That's where the Scouts from Troop 8481, chartered to First Baptist Church in nearby Shepherdsville, come in. The Troop 8481 Scouts give the Troop 10 Scouts packs of modeling clay that the visually impaired Scouts use to mold by hand into the shape of a car.



Scouts BSA members help a troop of legally blind Scouts build these amazing Pinewood Derby cars.

Then the Troop 8481 Scouts take the clay molds and cut them into real Pinewood Derby cars. The cars are returned to the Scouts of Troop 10, who paint them with all kinds of creative colors and patterns.

To keep things simple, the Scouts do not add weights to their cars. That means the shape of the car is the only factor that impacts its speed.

Troop 8481 provides a six-lane track, which they set up in the gymnasium of the Kentucky School for the Blind on the day of the race. Music is played. Songs are sung. And Troop 8481 Scouts announce the winner of each heat.

Members of Troop 8481 escort Troop 10 winners from the seats to the track and back again.

The relationship between the two troops doesn't end with the Pinewood Derby. Volunteers from Troop 8481 recently cleared some hiking trails on the school's campus. They also took one Troop 10 Scout to summer camp.

"The founding of Scouting was to do a Good Turn," Troop 8481 Scoutmaster Mark Grieser says. "If it wasn't for that one lone Scout and what he did, we wouldn't have the opportunities that we have. You never know when your one 'lone Scout' moment will come.

"Our youth are affecting 15 other youths and may be affecting what they believe they can do on a regular basis. They don't see a child using a cane because they're blind; they just see another child."





A SCOUTER IS THANKFUL 'Scoutly Scout' Program Rewards Youth for Doing Good Deeds

A handful of Scout units in Ohio's Simon Kenton Council have been testing a program designed to reward Scouts for performing "Scoutly" duties. The results, they say, have been overwhelmingly positive.

It started three years ago when leader William Ray asked, "When is the last time your Scout heard 'thank you' for doing something Scoutly?" The answer, he found, was that it happened

far less often than he'd like.

"We don't believe this is acceptable," states the Scoutly Scout webpage hosted by Troop 474 in Columbus, Ohio.

"Our goal was to find simple ways to further aid Scouts in developing Scoutly behaviors as internally rewarding habits," Ray says.

The program is summed up eloquently in [this file](#). In short, Troop 474 found that rewarding its Scouts with small, simple gestures — such as shout-outs during a campfire program or rewarding points that can be traded in for prizes — has made a big difference.

One criticism Ray says he's received is that you shouldn't reward Scouts for doing their jobs.

"While it's true that Scoutly behavior should be its own reward, BSA's vision

tells us that not all youth are there yet," Ray writes in the official Scoutly Scout program pamphlet. "As an adult, you may find bending over to pick up that piece of litter, sore back and all, internally gratifying, but many of your Scouts do not."

"BSA tells us that it's our job to help them get there. External affirmation — saying 'thank you' — goes a long way to helping them develop that internal gratification mechanism."

To be clear, Troop 474 is not out there giving away Xboxes and PlayStations to Scouts who do a Good Turn daily. Instead, almost all the physical rewards come from "random donations of Scout paraphernalia that always appear in quantities that make it impossible to divide them up equitably amongst the patrols anyway."



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THE VALUE OF MENTORING

Aviation Merit Badge Counselor Helps Next Generation of Pilots Get Their Start

A reminder to all the merit badge counselors and other Scout leaders out there: What you're doing makes a difference.

Case in point: John Cowan, a former U.S. Air Force F-4 and F-16 pilot who was working for United Airlines when he started volunteering for his son's Scout unit, Troop 986 in Lone Tree, Colo., in the late 1990s.

It was then that he met a 16-year-old Eagle Scout named Andy Weibel, who shared his interest in aviation with Cowan. The two had many discussions about the career field of a pilot.

In addition to serving as assistant Scoutmaster, Cowan eventually became an Aviation merit badge counselor — a natural fit, obviously. To help break up the classroom time, he took his students to the pilot training center where he was working as an instructor.

Little did he know at the time, for two Scouts in the class, it would be their first steps toward careers as pilots.

One of them, Micah Westblade, eventually entered the pilot program offered by Kansas State and upon graduation was hired as a pilot at American Eagle.

In 2016, Westblade was hired at United Airlines as a first officer on the Airbus A320, the same fleet for which Cowan still works as a captain. Seventeen years after that Aviation merit badge class, Cowan found himself again as Westblade's instructor, using the same simulator they used back in the Aviation class.

Four years later, Cowan and Westblade finally got the chance to fly together for

United Airlines — the merit badge counselor and his former student both flying as professional pilots after those years.

Another Scout in that Aviation class, Cowan's son Sean, attended the professional pilot program at Denver Metropolitan University. One of his first flight instructors was none other than Andy Weibel, the young man from the same Scout troop who had shared his interest in flying with Cowan so long ago.

Sean eventually went on to become a flight instructor at a local airport and now works for Amazon's drone delivery team, while Weibel flew corporate jets for many years before being hired as a technical director for a company that brokers corporate jets.



John Cowan taught Aviation merit badge classes in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Years later, he found himself in the cockpit with one of his former students.

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IN THE NEWS

Meet Gerald Spohrer, Pro Fisherman and Eagle Scout

For as long as he can remember, Gerald Spohrer knew what he wanted to do when he grew up.

"The only thing I cared about was fishing," Spohrer says.

"Everyone would ask me, 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' I would say, 'A professional bass fisherman.' I never changed my mind."

Spohrer did a lot of fishing with Troop 69 out of Gonzales, La., from which he eventually earned the rank of Eagle. Soon after, he became a professional fisherman. And now, at age 38, he's still at it.

Spohrer and his girlfriend and business partner, Maggie Deville, spend much of their time promoting Spohrer's fishing career through social media, interviews and other appearances.

"The fishing is the easy part," Spohrer says.

They have around 18 sponsors that are always asking for interviews, blog

posts or public appearances. Then they have to plan for the next tournament: how they're going to get there; where they're going to store their gear; and of course, how they're going to catch fish.

Spohrer says he enjoyed his time in Scouting because it taught him how to tie knots — a handy skill for a fisherman — and because it got him outdoors.

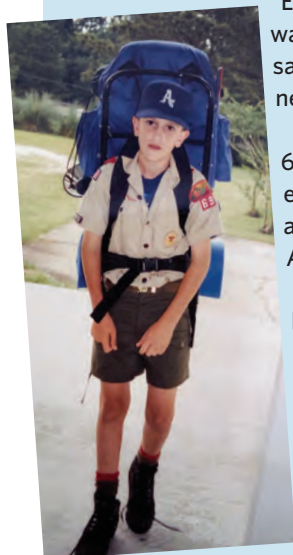
His fondest Scouting memory, however, is from one particular camporee where he was senior patrol leader in charge of getting his fellow Scouts ready for a variety of troop competitions.

"My troop had changed," he says. "We went from being a bunch of older kids ... a bunch of athletes ... to having a bunch of kids way younger than me.

"All these kids looked up to me. I was the highest rank. At first, I was thinking, 'We're gonna get killed this year in the competitions.' But then I was like, 'If I can just put the right people in the right places, maybe we can have a good showing.'"

"These kids thought they didn't have a chance. I said, 'Hey, look. I have a plan. Each one of you is going to play a part.' I told them to just focus on their part. Do what you do best. And we actually won the Ironman competition for the first time in my Scouting career.

"I couldn't have been more proud of those kids. We won the Ironman competition with what I like to call the Bad News Bears."





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Check out Cub Scout Pack 145's Impressive List of Do-It-At-Home Challenges

Faced with the challenge of keeping their pack active and running without the benefit of in-person meetings, Cub Scout Pack 145 from Christiansburg, Va., did what so many dedicated Scout leaders have had to do during these tough times: They got creative.

Beginning in March, the pack leaders challenged their Cub Scouts to complete

35 tasks related to the Cub Scout program. Among our favorites:

NO. 1: "The Scout Oath asks that all Scouts work on being 'physically strong.' Let's hear reports or see a photo or a video of our Cub Scouts being physically active outside today."

NO. 2: "Show 'A Scout is Clean' by demonstrating or explaining how you wash your hands."

NO. 9: "A Scout is Thrifty! Find and count spare change from around your house."

NO. 11: "Litter cleanup in your neighborhood."

NO. 21: "Make your own musical instrument."

NO. 31: "Plant a garden."

NO. 33: "Duct tape is a Scout tool that can repair or craft anything. Show what you can do!"

NO. 35: "Scout patches tradition — Show off all the patches you have earned before or during COVID."

It's a very fun and impressive list, and you can read the rest here: go.scoutingmagazine.org/pack145.

To receive credit for completing the challenges, the Cub Scouts had to document everything with photos or videos and send them to the adult leaders.

Once the challenges were verified as complete, the pack leaders mailed patches to the Scouts. It took more than 1,000 stamps to make sure every youth got the patch they deserved.

To top things off, the pack leadership made a personal visit to the home of every Scout. While observing appropriate social-distancing rules, the adults asked the Cub Scouts to say these four powerful words on video: "I'm a Cub Scout." The powerful and moving collection of responses can be seen here: go.scoutingmagazine.org/im-a-cub-scout

TELL US HOW your troop or pack is Scouting at home at go.scoutingmagazine.org/show-tell-scouting-at-home



To stay active when they weren't allowed to meet in person, the leaders of Pack 145 challenged their Cub Scouts to (clockwise from top) plant a garden, have a "wheely fun summer" and build their own tent.

INSPIRING STORIES

Former Scout Bugler Crosses the World to Memorialize His Teacher

In the early 1950s, Peter Duston was a 12-year-old Scout in Massachusetts whose music teacher taught him taps so he could qualify as his troop's bugler.

Duston has spent the last 50 years volunteering in Scouting, including 40 with Pack and Troop 139 in Cherryfield, Maine. He has trained dozens of troop buglers and been a merit badge counselor for Bugling, one of the rarest merit badges. Many of his students have become volunteers with Bugles Across America (buglesacrossamerica.org), an organization dedicated to keeping bugling alive.

To this day, Duston, 81 and retired from the Army, plays taps at the funerals of U.S. military veterans.

But for decades, there was one person who never got the proper honors he deserved. It inspired Duston to cross the world to make things right.

The music teacher — the one who taught Duston to play taps so many years ago — was a man named Gerry Scott. Shortly after teaching Duston the bugle, Scott was called to fight in Korea.

He never came home.

Scott, a sergeant in the Army, went missing in 1951. He was listed as MIA. It is believed he died during a death march from South Korea into North Korea.

Duston remembers hearing the news at Scout camp. He was devastated.

For the next 70 years, Scott was on Duston's mind. In 2007, he hiked the entire Appalachian Trail carrying an American flag. At night, he would hum taps and whisper the name of his old music teacher.

Eventually, battle maps from the Korean War were declassified. This was Duston's chance to give Scott the memorial he deserved.

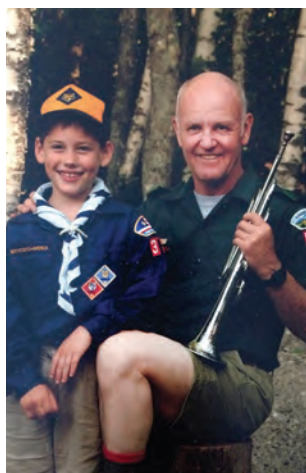


Duston and his wife traveled to Korea. With help from officials from a local Korean army post, they climbed the exact same ridge where it is believed that Scott was captured by the enemy.

There, the group observed a moment of silence before providing military honors for Scott. Duston buried a U.S. POW medal and placed an American and POW/MIA flag.

Gerry Scott had finally gotten the honors he deserved.

After a story about Duston's journey was published in Scott's hometown newspaper, Duston heard from Scott's niece and brother. They have stayed in touch, and Duston even spoke with Scott's niece at a Veterans Day ceremony last fall.



Duston, above in 1999 with his grandson, has taught bugling to Scouts for decades. Recently, he was able to travel to the exact spot where his own former bugling teacher was captured in Korea and provide the man with the military honors he deserved.



FROM LEFT: COURTESY OF PETER DUSTON (4); COURTESY OF GARRETT ARD (3)

AN EXCEPTIONAL EAGLE PROJECT

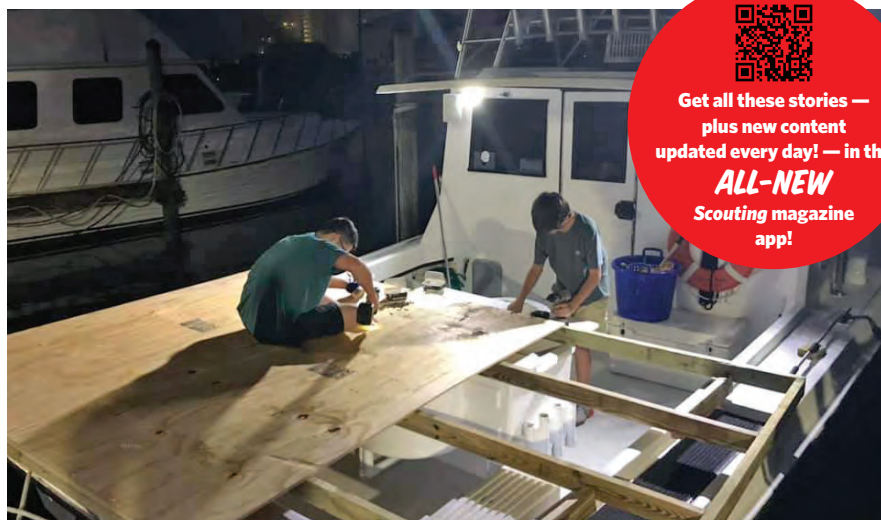
Alabama Scout's Underwater Service Project Creates Artificial Reef

It took just a few seconds for the old shrimp boat to sink to the bottom of the ocean. And just like that, Garrett Ard's Eagle Scout project was complete.

Ard, an Eagle Scout from Troop 49 in Gulf Shores, Ala., had raised more than \$25,000 and spent years working on the project. He says it was extremely satisfying to watch the 50-foot boat deposited to its final resting place, where it will become the centerpiece of an artificial reef complex.

"In a couple of seconds, years of work was finally completed, which just felt amazing," Ard told the Orange Beach City Council, which recognized him with a certificate of recognition for "outstanding achievement and exceptional leadership and citizenship evidenced by the attainment of the rank of Eagle Scout."

The completed reef will be called the Troop 49 Memorial Reef in recognition of Garrett's late grandfather and well-known charter captain Gloyce Ard, and to honor the other great mentors Garrett has had in his life.



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News You Need FAST 5

1 The chartered organization representative, the chaplain and the chaplain's aide are known in their units as the "**Faithful 3.**" Make sure your Faithful 3 are aware of the online chaplain training program that was introduced in 2018 and launched through the Members' BSA Learn Center. This training program fulfills the position-specific training requirements for any chaplain role across all Scouting programs. go.scoutingmagazine.org/chaplain

2 Scouting U is scheduled to hold the newly developed **Fundraising Essential Course** Dec. 2-5, 2020, at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. The course will include high-level training in all facets of a council's annual development plan, as well as long-term donor cultivation. go.scoutingmagazine.org/fundraising

3 The BSA's Exploring program is a mentorship opportunity for youth looking to discover their future. It is made possible by direct relationships in the community with businesses, departments

and municipalities. Learn more about the benefits of starting an Exploring post at go.scoutingmagazine.org/exploringunit

4 Putting together a newsletter for your unit? Want to publicize an event for your district? Need to download the latest *Boys' Life* mini-magazine? The **BSA Brand Center** has what you need. go.scoutingmagazine.org/brandcenter

5 The Boy Scouts of America has teamed up with 12 of the nation's leading youth programs to launch **Be a Champion, #InvestInKids**, a campaign designed to raise awareness and increase support for youth programs across the country. go.scoutingmagazine.org/investinkids



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FALL 2020

Recruitment Assets



Sexual Abuse Claims in Boy Scouts Bankruptcy

Regardless of how old you are today or when the sexual abuse occurred, you need to file your claim by 5 p.m. (Eastern Time) on November 16, 2020.

The Boy Scouts of America (“BSA”) has filed bankruptcy in order to restructure its nonprofit organization and pay Sexual Abuse Survivors. Please read this notice carefully as it may impact your rights against BSA, BSA Local Councils and organizations that sponsored your troop or pack and provides information about the case, *In re Boy Scouts of America and Delaware BSA, LLC*, No. 20-10343 (Bankr. D. Del.). This notice is a short summary. For more detail, visit www.OfficialBSAclaims.com or call 1-866-907-2721.

Who Should File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

Anyone who was sexually abused during their time in Scouting, on or before February 18, 2020, must file a claim. This includes sexual abuse in connection with Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, or any entity or activity associated with Scouting. Sexual Abuse Claims include, but are not limited to: sexual misconduct, exploitation, or touching, sexual comments about a person or other behaviors that led to abuse, even if the behavior was not sexual or against the law, and regardless of whether you thought the behavior was sexual abuse or not. These acts could be between a: (1) child and an adult or (2) child and another child.

When and How Should I File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

You should file a claim using the Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim by **November 16, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)**. **If you do not file a timely Sexual Abuse Claim, you may lose rights against BSA, BSA Local Councils or organizations that sponsored your troop or pack, including any right to compensation.** Only BSA is in bankruptcy. If you have a claim against the BSA Local Councils or other organizations, you must take additional legal action to preserve and pursue your rights.

Your information will be kept private. You can download and file a claim at www.OfficialBSAclaims.com or call 1-866-907-2721 for help on how to file a claim by mail. Scouting participants who were at least 18 years of age at the time the sexual abuse began may also have claims related to sexual abuse and should consult the appropriate claim form at www.OfficialBSAclaims.com.

ACT NOW Before Time Runs Out:



If a plan to reorganize BSA is approved, it could release claims you hold against certain third parties, including against BSA Local Councils and organizations that sponsored your troop or pack. Please visit the website to learn more.

Other Support

BSA will fund in-person counseling for current or former Scouts or their family. To request in-person counseling, please call 1-866-907-2721 or email restructuring@scouting.org.

Your information will be kept private.

Roundtable

BY MARK RAY

WHAT I'VE LEARNED

Nancy Bentley

This Scouter takes the very long view.

FactSheet

Nancy Bentley

YEARS AS A SCOUT VOLUNTEER: 23

CURRENT CITY: Reston, Va.

CURRENT POSITIONS: assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 1577; health and safety chair, Powhatan District; health and safety adviser, Powhatan Chapter, Amangamek-Wipit Lodge

DAY JOB: Instructional assistant, Fairfax County Public Schools

MOST SATISFYING

MOMENTS IN SCOUTING: Attending her Scouts' Eagle courts of honor and Vigil inductions. "It's been incredible being able to see the Scouts grow and mature into amazing young men."

FAVORITE CAMP AND WHY: Camp Olmsted, Goshen Scout Reservation, Goshen, Va. "Goshen was my first Boy Scout camp and I did my Vigil there, so there's lots of good memories."

NANCY BENTLEY'S FATHER, Bob

Sutherland, was an Eagle Scout, and she was destined to become a Scouting volunteer. "My dad had three girls," she says. "I became his only 'son' because he had to have one and wasn't going to give up." Her dad taught her the Scout Oath and Scout Law from an early age — although she didn't realize its source at the time — and approved of her fiancé, Brian Bentley, only because he was a fellow Eagle Scout. Before his untimely death, Sutherland's last conversation with Bentley's older son, Aaron, was about becoming an Eagle Scout. Aaron was not yet 5 years old at the time.

Bentley joined Cub Scouting when Aaron became a Tiger Cub and remained involved as he and younger brother, Morgan, moved into Troop 1577, joined the Order of the Arrow, became Eagle Scouts and aged out of the program. In fact, she's been involved long enough to see many of her Scouts become successful young adults, perhaps most notably Zachary Schonfeld, the 2020 National Chief of the Order of the Arrow. Today, she and son Morgan serve together as assistant Scoutmasters.

HAS TROOP 1577 PRODUCED A LOT OF ORDER OF THE ARROW LEADERS?

Yes. When I came into the troop in 2003, most of the ceremonies team came from our troop, and that actually still continues.

HOW DOES OA PARTICIPATION AFFECT TROOP ATTENDANCE?

I really think we kept our older boys in the troop longer and more active because they were part of the OA, and they felt like they had a place. They were at all the fellowships, they were at all the Ordeals and they were at all the outings for the troop. Our OA boys were senior patrol leaders over and over.

EVEN SCOUTS WHO GOT DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE OA?

Yes. When Zach was senior patrol leader, he was also chapter chief for part of the time. He never missed a meeting; I think he missed one conclave.

HOW DID THE TROOP AVOID MORE SCHEDULING CONFLICTS?

Zach's mom was the outings coordinator for the committee, and she would make sure they didn't plan outings against Ordeals or fellowships. Thank goodness for moms who really plan things out.



YOU'VE SAID OA EVENTS OFFER A WELCOME BREAK TO OLDER SCOUTS.

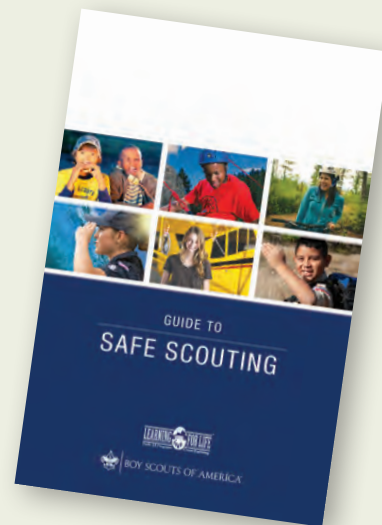
HOW SO? They get to play cards and sit and just enjoy each other's company, whereas when they're on campouts with the troop, they're working. If you get a free moment where you can just enjoy being kids, you should take it.

YOU CREATED AN ALL-YOUTH HEALTH AND SAFETY TEAM FOR YOUR DISTRICT. HOW DID THAT WORK OUT?

It was just the best. They all took wilderness first aid and CPR, and we had someone at the National Institutes of Health hook them up so they could take FEMA classes and be prepped for emergency management. When Aaron got to college at the University of Virginia, he joined the rescue team and ended up being one of the key students working on a missing person

Safety Surprises

How to keep your Scouts safe in every setting.



search in 2014. Two Scouts went further along and became paramedics; one became a nurse.

DID OTHER SCOUTERS SUPPORT THEM?

Yes. After Aaron helped someone who was having a seizure at an Ordeal, the chapter adviser at the time said, "If I get hurt, just let Aaron treat me." I feel the same way. These kids are competent and, boy, they'd never let you die.

WHAT'S THE VALUE OF BEING INVOLVED IN SCOUTING FOR DECADES?

I've been in long enough that I've seen guys go off and start their careers, and have been so impressed with what they're capable of doing. And I knew the whole time that that's exactly who they were going to become — maybe not as much when they were 7 or 8, but by the time they were 14.

DOES THAT MAKE YOU WANT TO STAY AROUND EVEN LONGER?

Yes. You think it was just one group of kids that was amazing — something you'll never see again. But then a new kid comes in, and you think, "I've got to stick around and see how this one goes. This kid is kind of impressive." ♣



SEE MORE advice from other Scout leaders at go.scoutingmagazine.org/wil



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YOU DON'T NEED a Spidey sense to know how important safety is in aquatics, climbing and shooting sports. But are you just as vigilant when your Scouts pitch their tents or ride on parade floats? You should be, because accidents can happen in any setting. Here's how to keep your Scouts — and yourself — safe from some surprising dangers.

WHAT ARE HAZARD TREES?

A hazard tree is any tree that has significant structural damage due to age, fire or disease. Signs include broken tops; missing bark or in-season foliage; and the presence of ants, termites or woodpecker holes.

HOW SHOULD WE AVOID HAZARD TREES? Be watchful on trails, especially when it's windy, and avoid campsites with hazard trees. If you must camp around a hazard tree, place tents, chairs and hammocks outside the tree's fall radius, which is one to one-and-a-half times the height of the tree (or a tree part that could fall) on level ground. Keep Scouts and adults out of the fall zone.

HOW CAN WE ENSURE FOOD SAFETY? Perishable food should be kept below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, so carry plenty of ice and start with

chilled or frozen food. Make sure cooks wash their hands before and after handling food and avoid cross-contamination by never allowing raw meat, poultry or their juices to come into contact with fresh or prepared foods. Meat, poultry and fish should be cooked to 145-165 degrees to kill bacteria; use a digital meat thermometer, not appearance, to check for doneness.

HOW CAN WE STAY SAFE ON THE ROAD? The *Guide to Safe Scouting* includes extensive guidance. Two key points: 1. Drivers must refrain from using handheld cellphones, and texting while driving is prohibited. 2. Driving time is limited to a maximum of 10 hours for each 24-hour period, regardless of the number of drivers available, and travel should be interrupted by frequent rest, food and/or recreation stops.

HOW CAN WE STAY SAFE IN PARADES? If Scouts are marching, allow adequate space between marchers and any vehicles, designate a lookout to watch for

hazards, and take head counts before, during and after the parade. Although Scouts are generally prohibited from riding in truck beds and on trailers, the policy may be tempered for parade floats or hayrides. However, these points must be strictly followed: 1. Transportation to and from the parade or hayride site is not allowed on the truck or trailer. 2. Riders, whether seated or standing, must be able to hold on to something stationary. 3. Legs should not hang over the side. 4. Flashing lights must illuminate a vehicle used for a hayride after dark, or the vehicle must be followed by a vehicle with flashing lights.

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE? The *Guide to Safe Scouting* is the official source for the BSA's safety policies and guidelines. The BSA has also created dozens of Safety Moments, which are training modules on specific topics. You can find them at scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments ♣



FIND MORE ANSWERS to common questions at go.scoutingmagazine.org/faq

School of One

How to recruit home-school families.



EVERY FALL, CUB SCOUT PACKS recruit new members from schools across the country. But many overlook the biggest school of all: the home school. According to one researcher, about 2.5 million American kids in kindergarten through 12th grade are home-schooled, and that number continues to grow.

How can your pack serve some of those kids? *Scouting* asked two experts: Kira LaFosse-Baker, education programs coordinator for New England Base Camp, where the

Spirit of Adventure Council offers home-school programming three days a week, and Eagle Scout Dan Warren, Ph.D., a BSA volunteer and home-school parent in Canton, Mass. Warren serves as director of youth development and education for Fluent Research, which provides consulting on educational and out-of-school programming.

A Gem With Many Facets

Every home-schooling family is different, and understanding why people choose to home-school will help you understand how your pack can serve them. LaFosse-Baker says, “There are people who are in home-schooling

because they want more religion in their children’s lives. There are people who home-school because they want control over the narrative of social studies and history. There are people who do it for health reasons.” But all these parents have something in common. Like other parents, she says, “They want their kids to grow up to be well-rounded people of character, and they want them to have lots of really great life experiences — not just school experiences, not just home experiences.”

To achieve that goal, Warren says, “A lot of them are putting together the educational plans of their kids a la carte.” They’ll do plenty of learning at home, but they’ll also plug in programming offered by parks, museums and other groups. In fact, LaFosse-Baker knows one family that uses the term “out-schooling” because they spend so much time learning away from home. “We’ve been joking among our families that ‘home schooling’ is really becoming an inaccurate term,” she says.

Community Connections

Because families home-school for many different reasons and follow many different schedules, it can sometimes be hard for them to build community. (An exception would be when home-schooling families are connected to the same religious institution.) Although the same families might see each other at different activities from time to time, “it never feels like we’re raising our children together,” Warren says. “What Cub Scouting really brings out is this element of being committed around a certain set of values to



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helping each other raise our kids. It provides the parents with a consistent community, which I would argue is actually — given the developmental period of Cub Scouts — more important than the kids having consistent community.”

While home-school families might not naturally connect like they would in a traditional school setting, they are often connected through social media.

“One of the biggest resources is Facebook, because that’s where home-schoolers are all connecting with each other and sharing resources,” LaFosse-Baker says. She follows five or six local and regional home-school groups on Facebook and uses them to identify needs that New England Base Camp could help fill. For example, if several families are looking for a robotics program for preteens, she’ll set one up.

Recruiting Home-Schoolers

Given the role of social media, Warren says it helps to identify key influencers in the community and convince them to give Cub Scouting a try.

“They’ll come, they’ll test it out with their kids, and then they’ll go back and they’ll get all their friends,” he says. “It’s finding who those key people are, who the community advocates and the mobilizers within the home-school community are, and connecting with them and building strong relationships with them.”

It also helps to rethink the concept of recruiting. People sometimes ask Warren when and where to do school talks with home-schoolers. His response: “It’s going to be in someone’s living room on a Tuesday morning.” And the kids are going to have more of a voice in the decision to join than they otherwise might.

Scouting as School

In a traditional educational setting, Scouting is an extracurricular activity, but many home-schoolers look at Scouting as an integral part of school.

“The home-school community is looking for a plugin for their child’s education,” Warren says. “They’re not looking for just this extracurricular



experience.”

Some families even see Scouting as a framework on which to build their own curriculum.

“I wish I had a nickel for every person in the home-school community that came to me with the Scout handbook and said, ‘I just read this. This is genius. It’s like a home-schooler’s bible,’” he says.

“The idea of Scouting as education is something that we need to talk about much more actively, especially with alternative education becoming more and more the norm,” he says. “This home-school thing looks like fringe, but it’s not. It’s in the mainstream now.” ♣



The Old College Try

Entering college through the side door.

The Dilemma

Like many students, Tony Freeport isn't great at taking standardized tests, writing essays or doing the other little things that would get him into an elite college. So he spends a lot of time in college prep sessions — a *lot* of time.

At one of those sessions, the conversation turns to news stories about parents who have paid people to take their kids' ACT and SAT or actually

bribed college officials. The instructor says that stuff like that is clearly out of bounds (not to mention illegal) but that there are plenty of “creative ways” (her phrase) students can make the system work for them. She then tells the group about some of the things her previous students have done, including making up an honor society and naming themselves and their friends as officers.

“When you think about it, that's better than putting National Honor

Society on your résumé when you did nothing beyond getting inducted,” she says. “Now, I'm not saying you should do this, but it has been done.”

Is doing things like that ethical? If not, is it ethical for the instructor to mention them?

For Discussion

Before discussing the ethical aspects of this dilemma with your youth, divide a whiteboard or flipchart into



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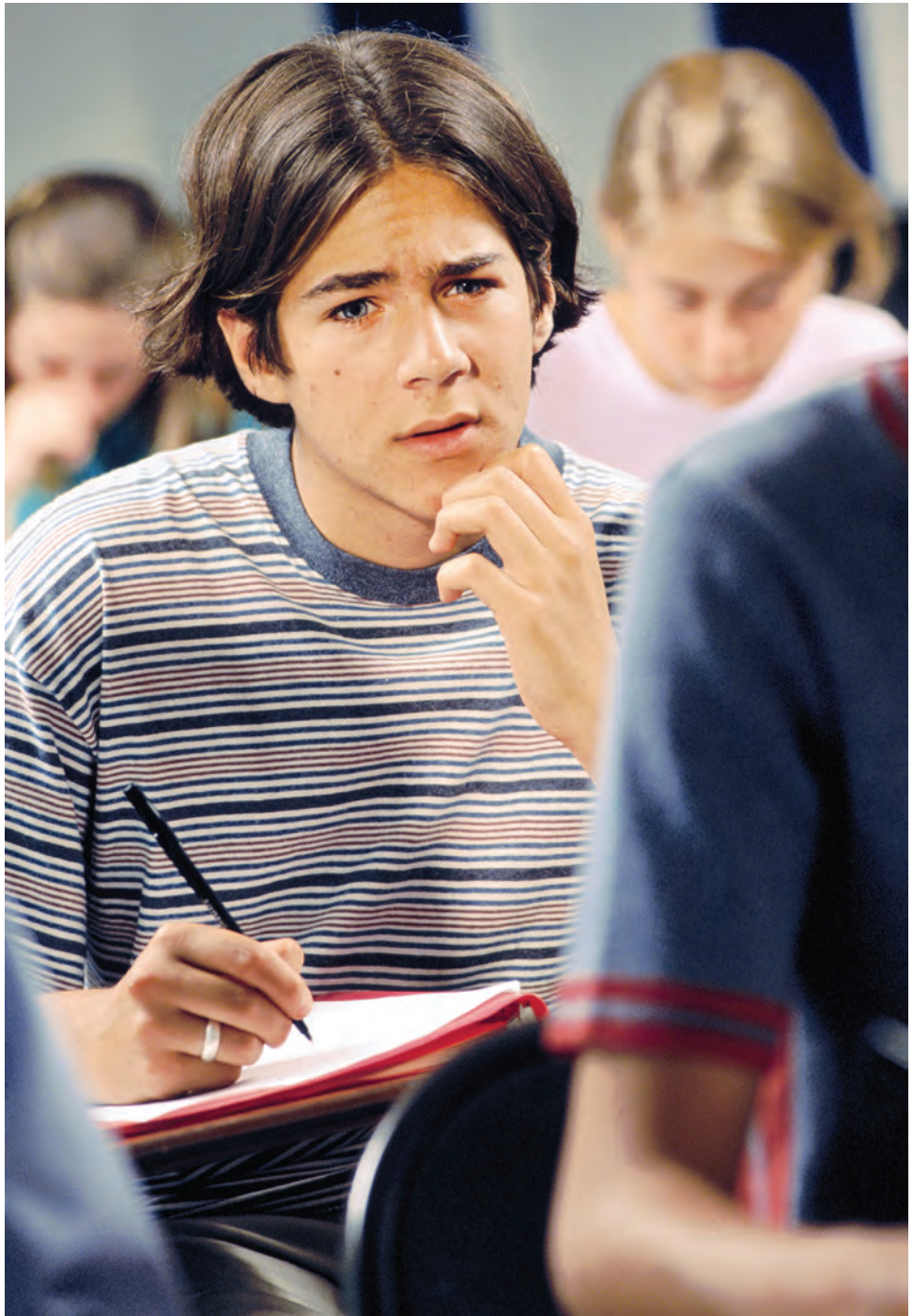
two columns. In the first column, have the group list qualities that colleges are looking for in new students. In the second, have them list ways that colleges can assess each of those qualities. (For example, GPAs are an indicator of academic potential.)

Next, have the group brainstorm questionable techniques, starting with those listed above. Write each on a separate index card. Once you have 10 or more, have the group lay them out on a table in order from most ethical to least ethical. Challenge the group to identify the point in the progression where the techniques clearly cross the line into being unacceptable.

Discuss these questions:

- ▶ What makes an action ethical or unethical?
- ▶ What made you decide that some techniques were acceptable?
- ▶ What made you decide that some techniques were unacceptable?
- ▶ Did you base your decisions on comparisons with other techniques? (For example, was technique A acceptable because it wasn't nearly as bad as technique B?)
- ▶ Should ethical decisions be based on comparisons like that?

Finally, discuss whether it was unethical for the instructor to mention the “creative” techniques. If it was, have the group decide what action, if any, Tony should take. ♣



FIND MORE ETHICS discussions
at go.scoutingmagazine.org/ethics

Grudge Match

Tips for defusing sibling rivalry

SIBLING RIVALRY IS ALIVE AND WELL in family therapist Michelle Lunka's house in Buckeye, Ariz. Twins Madelyn and Logan are members of linked Scouts BSA troops — one led by Lunka, the other by her husband, Chris. So Scouting gives her twins yet another way to compare, contrast and occasionally complain about their lives.

But if Lunka knows sibling rivalry, she also knows something else: The real problem is not the other sibling; it's each child's need to be seen, heard and valued.

"I think what we see a lot of times in sibling rivalry is this competition to get my needs met," she says.



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO (4)



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That competition doesn't just happen with twins, of course, says Jami Growney, an occupational therapist in Leawood, Kan. In fact, age differences can exacerbate the problem since older kids typically have different rights and responsibilities.

So how can parents deal with sibling rivalry? Lunka and Growney offer some suggestions.

Connect Two

"With most of the families I work with, I really encourage what we call one-on-one connect time," Lunka says. "It's literally just 10 minutes a day with your child one on one where there's no teaching, questioning, lecturing and all of that."

Instead, you spend that time building with Legos, listening to their music or hearing how their day went.

At first, giving dedicated time could actually make the rivalry worse, but that problem should subside over time.

"If you're consistent, the other siblings will know they're going to get their time," she says.

Teach in the Moment

"Because I said so" isn't one of Growney's favorite phrases, and it certainly doesn't make a child feel seen, heard or valued. When one child complains that another has gotten preferential treatment, she recommends turning that complaint into a teachable moment.

She gives the example of a younger child being evicted from his prime seat in the SUV.

"Many parents may say, 'Dude, move it to the back; you're little,'" she says. "That just stripped him of his power, didn't give him an explanation, and left him angry and jealous that the other sibling is taking his spot."

It's far better to explain that the older child needs more leg room, will be getting out first for soccer practice or earned that privilege by doing his chores.



Get a Clue

"I think all of our behaviors are about a need that is not being met in the moment," Lunka says.

The challenge with kids is to figure out just what that need is, which is why she thinks parents sometimes have to put on their detective hat.

Often, the need involves food, especially when kids eat school lunch at 10 a.m. and then don't have dinner until 6.

"I always joke that Snickers has made millions of dollars off this 'hangry' idea," she says.

But she also knows that "hangry" is very real.

Reach Out

When should you get outside help to deal with your kids' sibling rivalry?

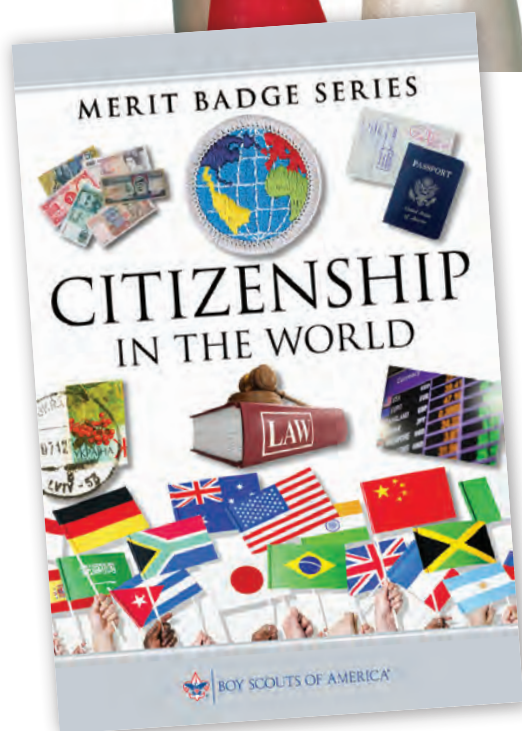
"If it's changing your relationships, if you're changing your routines and not feeling successful, I think that's a great time to reach out," Growney says. ✦



FIND MORE parenting advice
at [go.scoutingmagazine.org/
yourkids](https://go.scoutingmagazine.org/yourkids)

Going Global

Tips for teaching Citizenship in the World



BEFORE SHE TAUGHT HER SCOUTS

what it takes to become a U.S. citizen (requirement 2 of the Citizenship in the World merit badge), Crystal Bueno didn't do any research. Instead, the naturalized citizen from Canada grabbed her thick stack of immigration paperwork — oh, and the X-rays proving she doesn't have tuberculosis.

"The Scouts were so happy to see all that stuff, to touch all that stuff, to understand," the New York Scouter says.

Seeing and touching stuff was just one way she brought the badge to life for the members of Troop 187 in Brooklyn.

Power From the People

One of the highlights of the

multiweek class was a panel discussion featuring troop parents who grew up in countries from India to Ecuador.

"A lot of our Scouts are first-generation Americans," she says. "So having their parents and other family members participate on a panel discussion about growing up in another country — what's the same, what's different, about food, culture, religion, holidays, different forms of government — was an amazing and enlightening experience." (The discussion related to requirements 3b, 5 and 7c.)

Bueno thinks troops anywhere can find similar resources if they look for them.

"I think these resources exist if people have the imagination to search



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for them,” she says. “Look for international events or restaurants or ethnic festivals.”

Show and Tell

Bueno’s show and tell didn’t end with her lung X-rays. She also pulled together a collection of old passports to make requirement 6c (passports and visas) more meaningful.

“The Scouts just loved flipping through them and making fun of our bad passport photos,” she says.

And a collection of Scouting stamps from an aunt offered a fun way to introduce the World Organization of the Scout Movement (requirement 4c).

“It must have been 25 or 30 different countries,” she says. “We just

spread out the stamps and had the kids match up the stamps with the countries.”

Avoiding Assumptions

For requirement 3a (discuss a current world event), Bueno had Scouts debate U.S. involvement in Syria’s civil war and the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela. And she was sure to provide context, including telling the story of a Syrian family that emigrated to Canada and created a beloved chocolate company.

“To get 11-, 12-, 13-year-olds to read the news and understand what’s happening, it doesn’t have context,” she says. “But when you’re able to make it a personal story, then they appreciate it.”

Similarly, when it came time to compare the rights, duties and obligations of citizens in different countries (another part of requirement 2), she had the group create the first chart together, then assigned a second chart for homework.

Bueno’s advice to other counselors is simple: “Do whatever you can to make it hands-on and interactive, and not just a dry lecture. This is such an important badge. To understand your place as a world citizen is such a huge thing to wrap your head around and to learn and to appreciate.” ✦



FOR MORE TIPS on teaching merit badges to your Scouts:
go.scoutingmagazine.org/mbclinic

Boys' Life®

Preview



HIKING ALONG HISTORY

Follow members of Troop 500 of San Diego as they hike a California portion of the 1,900-mile Mormon Battalion Trail while working on a council patch. Along the way, they learn about the only religious-based unit in U.S. military history and its feats during the Mexican-American War. Bonus: Find out how to make ash cakes, a simple, period-appropriate snack.



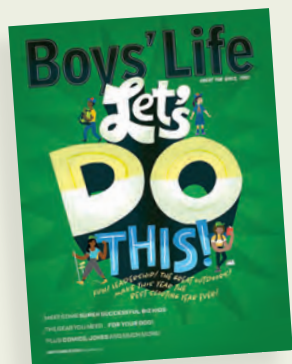
BEST. SCOUTING. YEAR. EVER.

Help your youth get the most out of Scouting, whether they're Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA members, Venturers, Sea Scouts or Explorers. September's *Boys' Life* provides a guide to the BSA programs and what opportunities await in each. In all programs, Scouts can expand their outdoor skills; gain leadership; and become healthier, well-rounded people while having a lot of fun.



PITCH PERFECT

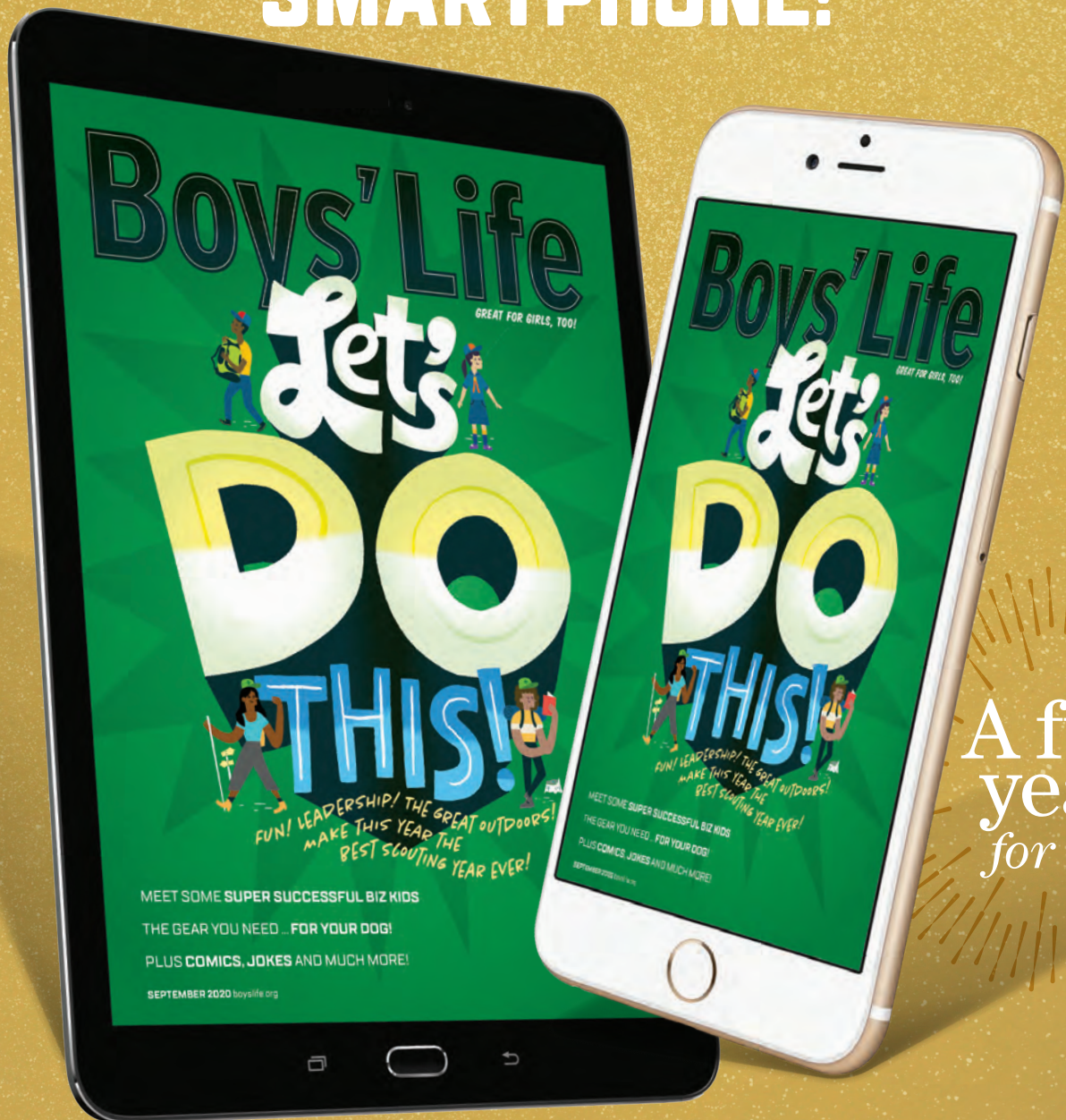
Find the right tent whether you're car camping or backpacking. In the September issue, the Gear Guy outlines what factors you should consider when shopping for a tent, such as weight, space, stability and ease of setup. Then he reviews some of the best options on the market.



Boys' Life magazine helps your Scouting unit and your Scouts excel. Research shows that boys and girls who subscribe advance further, spend more time outdoors and stay in Scouting longer than those who don't. Plus, *Boys' Life* helps start your youth on the path to becoming lifelong readers. Today's readers are tomorrow's leaders!

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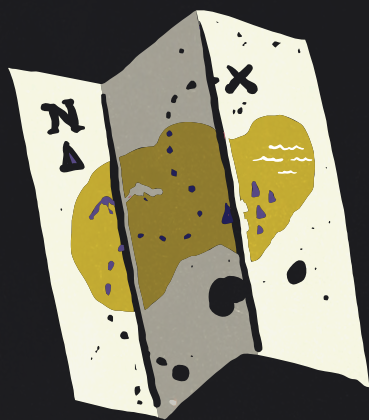


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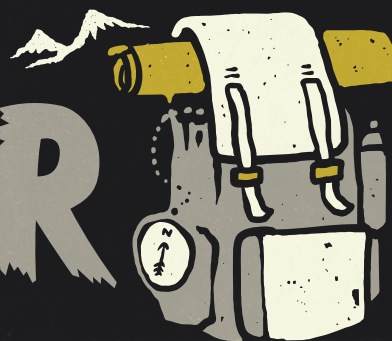
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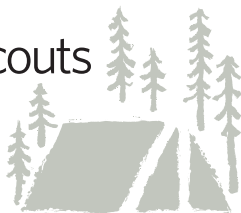
OUTDOOR



GAME

BY AARON DERR

Keep your older Scouts engaged by safely **INCREASING THE INTENSITY** of their outdoor experiences.



Your Scouts have been hiking. They've been to day camp. They've likely been on weekend campouts, and many of them might have been to summer camp.

All of these are great, fun activities for Scouts who are just getting used to being outdoors.

So ... what's next?

The key is to keep pushing the limits of your Scouts while continuing to minimize risk. (Good luck getting your Scouts to go out again if, the first time they try something new, they have a miserable experience.)

Consider these five options for upping your outdoor game.

Backpacking With Overnights in the Backcountry

Backpacking is the natural next step once Scouts have mastered hiking and weekend camping. What is backpacking if not an extended hike while carrying all the gear you need for camping?

Technically, backpacking is open to Scouts BSA members of all ages (as well as Venturers and Sea Scouts). However, not all brand new 11-year-old Scouts are built the same.

When planning an entry-level backpacking trek, consider the fitness and experience levels of all participants. It's not just about mileage. A few hours walking even a short distance uphill can be difficult for first timers.

Take elevation into account as well. A trek at altitude is a completely different experience than a trek closer to sea level. (For more on high-altitude adventures, read the mountaineering section on page 27.)

Conduct practice hikes months in advance — complete with loaded backpacks — and slowly increase the intensity. Encourage any Scout who isn't involved in a personal fitness program to start one right away.



A backpacking trip requires planning. Anticipating trail conditions, travel distances and campsite locations will help you and your group put together a plan that is right for the conditions you will face.

Bike Treks With Multiple Overnights

Most of your Scouts probably already know how to ride a bike. A cycling trek — also known as “touring” — is a great way to cover more ground than you could on foot.

If you aren't an experienced cyclist yourself, local bike clubs can be a great resource. They exist to encourage and promote biking, so take advantage of them. They might even have trips already in the works that you can join.

Start organizing short rides months





before your trek, and increase your mileage each time.

It's very difficult to carry all your camping gear on your bike, so consider recruiting some responsible adults to man support vehicles to carry gear, food, water, and supplies to repair flat tires and other breakdowns.

Just like you wouldn't go backpacking without a map, don't embark on a cycling trek without a cue sheet that contains turn-by-turn instructions — along with mileage, landmarks and other useful information. Even though you'll be traveling in a group (or multiple groups), every cyclist should carry one.

Canoe, Kayak or Raft Treks

Paddling down one of America's great rivers is

Just as cycling on the road requires you to master certain skills and maneuvers, so, too, does trail riding. When it comes to whitewater activities, a life jacket and a helmet are your most important pieces of safety equipment. If you go overboard, the support from your PFD will allow you to concentrate on righting the boat and getting back underway.

another wonderful way to catch some gorgeous scenery. The challenge here is often with the vessels themselves — very few Scout leaders own a fleet of canoes just waiting for their troop to take them out.

However, your local Scout camp might have a lake with canoes or kayaks available for Scouts to use. This is a good way to practice paddling and get rookies used to the process.

Eventually, you'll probably have to work with an outfitter or a Scout



council to go on a multiday trek. Start fundraising now.

Make sure every Scout going on one of these treks is a strong swimmer. You might not plan on swimming, but someone will probably end up in the water. It's part of what makes these adventures so fun — and also why everyone always wears a life jacket.

Make sure your outfitter understands and complies with the Guide to Safe Scouting and BSA Safety Afloat. Scouts must wear helmets on rapids rated Class II and higher, even if your outfitter doesn't require them. (And if your outfitter doesn't require them, you should seriously consider getting a different outfitter.)

Unit trips on whitewater sections of rivers rated Class IV are allowed only with a professionally trained guide in each raft. Trips above Class IV are prohibited.

Mountaineering

Once you've mastered backpacking, consider mountaineering.

BSA-approved mountain travel falls somewhere between backpacking on a trail and technical mountaineering, which often involves glacier travel and ascents requiring the use of ropes, anchors and technical expertise. (The latter is possible, too, but requires supervision by multiple adults with advanced training.)

Standard mountain travel may include nights of camping at high elevations. It draws on a mastery of backpacking, wilderness navigation and risk management. Most of all, it demands maturity and good judgment.

Researching a mountain trip before leaving home will give you a sense of the lay of the land. You can then figure out the hiking trails that will lead you to your destination and to designated sites where you can camp along the way.

Strenuous activity at high elevation is very, very serious business. You — and everyone else on the trek — absolutely must be in top physical



Canoeing most commonly is a two-person activity, teaching communication, teamwork and physical fitness. In addition to rock climbing ability, mountaineering may require the skills of route finding, wilderness camping, and ascending snow and ice.



Having experience on skis goes a long way to helping a beginner attempt cross-country skiing. Cross-country skiing is one of the most aerobically demanding sports you can participate in and requires at least the same level of physical fitness as hiking.



condition and also able to recognize the signs of acute mountain sickness, high-altitude cerebral edema and high-altitude pulmonary edema. BSA wilderness first-aid training is recommended.

Ski Touring for Multiple Days and Nights Carrying Gear

Perhaps you've seen a good cross-country skier skimming over the snow. The traveler kicks forward

on one ski, glides on it a moment, then kicks the other ski ahead. One motion flows into the next, and soon the skier is out of sight.

It probably won't surprise you that it might not be that easy for everyone.

If your Scouts have some experience on skis, that's great. Even if they do, lessons from an expert on cross-country skiing will definitely help. A smooth, efficient technique makes cross-country skiing a blast. Poor



Both downhill and cross-country snow skiing require using both arms and legs to move along the trail. It is a demanding but exhilarating full-body workout.

PLAN YOUR ADVENTURE

The BSA's Adventure Plan is a tool to guide unit leaders — Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers and Sea Scouts — through all stages of adventure planning. Get started at tap.scouting.org



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WHAT NOT TO DO

We appreciate you wanting to try something new with your Scouts. We like the idea of thinking outside the box. We really do. Just don't think *too* far outside the box.

Extreme or action sports and associated activities that involve an unusually high degree of risk and often involve speed, height, a high level of exertion, and specialized gear or equipment are not allowed in Scouting. These activities include but are not limited to:

- Parkour
- Cliff diving or jumping
- Tree climbing
- Free or solo climbing
- Aerobatics while snowboarding, skiing, wakeboarding or mountain biking
- Parachuting, BASE jumping or wingsuiting
- Parasailing or any activity in which a person is carried aloft by a parachute, parasail, kite, flying tube or other device
- Participation in amateur or professional rodeo events, council or district sponsorship of rodeos, and use of mechanized bulls or similar devices
- Jumping with bungee-cord devices
- Bubbleball, Knockerball, zorbing, Battle Balls, bubble soccer, bubble football, and similar orb activities in which participants collide or roll around on land or water
- Flyboarding/jet-boarding
- Highlining
- XPOGO
- Trampolines and trampoline parks (exception: commercial facilities that meet or exceed current ASTM Standard F2970-15)

Before planning any outdoor adventure, always review the Guide to Safe Scouting at scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss

technique results in tired and possibly injured Scouts.

Like canoes and kayaks and rafts, it's doubtful anyone in your unit owns enough ski equipment for the whole troop to use. Rent some and get used to it on short day trips. Once the Scouts get acclimated, you can start to explore the possibility of longer treks.

Keep in mind that extended travel in the backcountry on skis requires some additional considerations and preparation. You'll want to practice carrying a pack, going uphill and downhill, and everything in between. You'll want to practice on established trails and in fresh powder.

Hut-to-hut ski treks are great. You get the experience of trekking across the snow during the day combined with the luxury of spending the night in a shelter. ♣



LEAD



This page, clockwise from top: Student Jamal Cherisca learns how to play the chimes at the music station, as Mekayla McDaniels goes fishing and Rebekah Sowders works on a craft.

SPECIAL KIDS, SPECIAL CAMP

BY MARK RAY
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALTON STRUPP





One Kentucky council makes sure **EVERY KID** gets to enjoy Scouting activities.

Mason Cunningham, 11, looked a little nervous as he settled into a voyageur canoe last fall during Adventure Camp, an event Lincoln Heritage Council regularly hosts at Camp Crooked Creek for special-needs schoolchildren.

But you could tell by Mason's grin that the fifth grader was more excited than worried about canoeing with his classmates from Cedar Grove Elementary School in nearby Shepherdsville. In fact, as soon as the 10-minute trip was over, he told speech language pathologist Kaycee Woods, "I liked it. What do we do now?"

As Mason's classmates headed off to their next activity — an adaptive music station run by arts group VSA Kentucky — longtime canoeing volunteer Mike Broderick reflected on Adventure Camp's impact.

"A couple of years ago, I had one kid who was so excited, he said, 'This is the best day of my life,'" Broderick recalls. "I think it's great to be able to get kids out and give them the opportunity to experience the outdoor environment and do an activity like this where they might not have had the opportunity before."

All Are Welcome

Adventure Camp began in the early 1990s as a partnership with Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville to take kids fishing. It has since grown to serve students from 10 school districts, with as many as 2,300 kids participating over 10 days in the spring and fall. The camp is open to any self-contained special-needs class, so it serves kids with a range of conditions.



"We have all abilities," says Sarah Flowers, director of camping services. "We have kids who are in wheelchairs or nonmobile. We have kids with Down syndrome. We have kids with just behavior issues."

Kristen McNair deals with a variety of conditions in her class at Hite

Clockwise from top left: Students from Cedar Grove Elementary take a canoe ride with Scout leader Mike Broderick. Campers have their life jackets checked before boarding the canoe. Students Brooke Payne, Jordan Joslin and Kylie Hilton (left to right) have fun at the bubble station.





Elementary in Louisville. She has been bringing students to Adventure Camp for 15 years and says her favorite part is that no one is judgmental.

“If you go to the science center, people are like, ‘What’s wrong with that kid? Why can’t she control that kid?’” she says. “You don’t have that here.”

McNair also likes that her students can all find something they enjoy. Besides fishing, boating and music, Adventure Camp offers BB guns and archery, crafts, science activities and even bubble play.

The crew from Cedar Grove Elementary had done most of those activities by the time they stopped at the camp dining hall to eat. As the kids dug into their sack lunches, Kaycee Woods says the day had given her students the chance to try new things — including leadership.

“One of my students has taken on a little more of a leadership role in helping with the other kids,” Woods says. “She is loving that. Seeing her get to do that is awesome.”

Volunteer Dan Robinson (above) shows students how to handle a fish. At the archery station, students learn how to handle a bow and arrow for the first time.





A Volunteer Army

Not far from Woods' group, a handful of camp volunteers were enjoying chili dogs served up by a Wood Badge cooking crew. Although some volunteers were Scouters, most represented groups like America's Boating Club (formerly the United States Power Squadrons) or area companies. Louisville's largest employer, UPS, gives workers the day off to volunteer, as does payment integrity vendor Equian LLC.

Coordinating Equian's participation last fall was senior claims examiner Rex Toler, who says about a quarter of the company's 300 local employees volunteer at the camp each year.

"We always choose a Thursday and Friday, and we usually bring about 20 a day," he says.

Toler says he could bring more if somebody didn't need to keep the business running.

"People email me and come up to my office before I send anything out, looking forward to signing up for it," he says. "It's really nice and refreshing to know that I don't have to twist arms to get people to come."

Last fall, the volunteers ranged in age from 23-year-old Alex Davis-Lichtenberger, whose mom, Kat, was running shooting sports, to 95-year-old Oliver Thibodeau. "Tip," as he's known, spent the day ferrying supplies and passengers in a golf cart, something he's been doing for 20 years.

The most senior volunteers tend to help with fishing. That station remains popular in part because the volunteers come early and catch some fish they attach to "lucky poles" that they hand over to kids who aren't

getting any nibbles. At a previous camp, one boy said the word "fish" after he used a lucky pole.

"You know what his teacher said?" fishing coordinator Ray Glass recalls. "I've been teaching you for almost two years, and I've never heard you say as many words as I heard today."

Council board member Jim Rogers, who was working at the BB gun range, came up with the shooting-sports equivalent of a lucky pole. When a girl said she didn't want to shoot BB guns because shooting is for boys, he had a brainstorm: He offered her a girl BB gun, which looked suspiciously like the guns the boys were using.

"You might not be able to tell the difference, but I can tell the difference," Rogers said. "And she could, too."

Smiles, Hugs and More

Since some of the campers are nonverbal, volunteers can't always tell whether the campers are having a good time. Many will smile or offer hugs, but some have unique ways of expressing themselves.

Kim Fisher from America's Boating Club vividly remembers the first time he captained one of the camp's three pontoon boats. As soon as it left the dock, a boy with cerebral palsy began screaming loudly.

"I'm thinking, 'What's going on?' But then I saw that that's the only way he could communicate," Fisher says. "He screamed with joy the whole way

Clockwise from top left: Scout leader John Combs greets children as they arrive. Some students make beautiful music together in the music station. Students are ready for their canoe ride.



around this lake for 10 minutes."

Moments like that make the volunteers want to come back year after year. ♣



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WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Adventure Camp relies heavily on community partners that provide financial support and volunteers. Donors include the UPS Foundation, the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, the WHAS Crusade for Children, VSA Kentucky and Dawn Foods.

The program technically costs \$10 per student, which covers both the spring and fall camps and an optional in-school curriculum from Learning for Life. Most participants, however, pay little or nothing.

"We don't want money to be a reason why kids don't come," says Sarah Flowers, director of camping services. "The kids that can pay, pay, and the kids that can't, we don't worry about it."

"There's no reason other councils couldn't do this," says council board member John Combs, who was directing traffic at the fall camp. "You've got the infrastructure. You've got the volunteer base. All you need is to get a couple or three companies involved and engage the special-needs education community."

Scout Executive Jason Pierce would also like the program to spread.

"People need to see that Scouting is reaching out in every way possible to serve as many kids as we can," he says.



LEAD



A **W**ebelos
Outdoor
Weekend
event — with
a Halloween
twist! — helps
ensure a **HEALTHY**
RECRUITING year.

BY AARON DERR

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
W. GARTH DOWLING



When it comes to maintaining a healthy Scout unit, recruiting is king. The ability to consistently bring in new members is the lifeblood of every troop, crew or ship.

A large part of recruiting is simply running the program the way it was designed to be run. Let the Scouts lead. Make sure they get outdoors. Keep them safe. Keep them motivated. Stay out of the way.

A recruiting event — sometimes called Webelos Outdoor Weekend or Webelos Woods — is a great way to show off your program. It's an opportunity to recruit new Scouts not by *telling* them why they should join, but by *showing* them what it could be like when they join.

In many ways, a recruiting campout should be like a regular campout for your Scouts. You just invite local Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts — and their parents — to join you.

Bill Shaffer, Scoutmaster of Troop 26 in Tulsa, Okla., knows a thing or two about recruiting. He's been a Scoutmaster for more than 50 years. In 2010, Troop 26 made the decision to set aside a monthly campout specifically for that purpose.

They chose October, because that's the time many Arrow of Light Scouts are shopping around for Scouts BSA troops to join. They incorporate a family-friendly Halloween theme just to make it extra appealing for the

visiting Cub Scouts. Recently they even arranged a visit from the Creature from the Black Lagoon.

The result — what they call Hallo-Weekend — has been a smashing success. It's grown so much over the years that they've starting invited neighboring troops to join them.

Starting Early

As with any Scout campout, the key to a successful recruiting event is planning. Because the event is so ingrained in the culture of Troop 26, everyone takes a tremendous amount of pride in doing their part to pull it off.

"The primary thing we do is to think about the legacy (of this event)," Shaffer says. "There's an appreciation for what has happened in the past, and also they look forward to what happens after they're gone."

That means not just camping alongside the Webelos. It means camping *with* the Webelos.

"I've been to a million activities where Webelos are invited, and you go with a specific troop, and the older boys are over here and the younger boys are over there and the Webelos are in a third spot and nobody's mingling," Shaffer says. "That's counterproductive."



Top: Each year, the Scouts choose a guest of honor to go along with the Halloween theme. Instead of spooking the campers, the Creature from the Black Lagoon seems to have some made some new friends. **Above:** The opening ceremonies begin!



Scouts BSA member Gracie Shepherd shows the Webelos some identifying characteristics of local plant life (left); Elanor Sullivan walks across a rope bridge (below); the Scouts BSA members review the Outdoor Code.

The Scouts of Troop 26 host activities for the Webelos to enjoy. Some activities help the younger kids complete their Arrow of Light requirements. Others are designed to show the kinds of things that Scouts BSA members can do.

The Scouts BSA leaders are expected not just to give instructions, but to get to know the Webelos on a personal level.

“‘Hey, you in the blue hat’ doesn’t really work,” Shaffer says. “You have to take the time to meet them and get to know them a little bit. That increases the chances of Scouting getting a new Scout — if not with us, maybe with someone else.”

Youth Leadership Emerges

Nathan McCorkle, 14, was the senior patrol leader of Troop 26 at their most recent Hallo-Weekend. He had already been part of two previous recruiting campouts, so he had a good idea of what worked and what wouldn’t work.

“We want to show them how our troop functions and what we do,” Nathan says.

The fact that the Scouts BSA members lead the Cub Scouts through the activities means the whole thing is a win-win experience. The younger kids get to check off some requirements while learning from the older kids. The older kids get some leadership experience and learn what all Cub Scout leaders already know: Wrangling a group of Cub Scouts isn’t that easy.

“Most of time they’re really interested in what we’re doing,” says Nathan, “but some of them are really





A New Perspective

Warner has seen the benefits of the event both as a Cub Scout leader and a Scouts BSA leader.

“As a Webelos leader, you know how to explain things,” Warner says. “But when you’re explaining it to Webelos who have never done it, it’s hard for them to visualize.”

A recruiting weekend event, on the other hand, makes it all very real.

Merl Whitebook, Troop 126’s committee chair, says he’s enjoyed watching his Scouts take the younger girls under their wings.

“It gives our Scouts the opportunity to work with them and walk by their sides,” Whitebook says, “to teach them and to mentor them, and to start building relationships with the younger Scouts who will be hopefully transitioning into Scouts BSA.”

Whereas the boys of Troop 26 had about 10 years of history to draw from, the girls of Troop 126 had never done this before.

“We made sure that [the Webelos] felt included in everything we did,” says Maren Hettler, 12, of Troop 126.

super excited about everything, and some of them can get a little too excited.”

At night, they settle in for skits around a campfire.

“After the main activities during the day, we show them around the campsite, and I show them the patrol campsites and everything so they can kind of see how the troop works and how the campouts work.”

A few years ago, Troop 26’s Hallo-Weekend was allowed to invite girls to attend — not as siblings, but as real Scouts — for the first time.

Andrea Warner had been a den leader for both her son and daughter. When her daughter, Katie, joined Cub Scouting as a Webelos Scout, she attended Hallo-Weekend shortly after. Before she knew it, Warner had started a new girls’ Scouts BSA unit: Troop 126. (They share many of the same leaders as Troop 26.)

Webelos Scout John Dicks prepares his pumpkin for some creative carving (above left), while fellow Webelos Scout Alex Oaks (above right) is ready to toss her bean bag. The pumpkin-carving session is a huge part of this Halloween-themed event.



“We wanted to make them feel like they were a part of our troop. We didn’t treat them any differently than you would treat any of our Scouts.”

At the most recent event, the weather didn’t exactly cooperate. There was rain. There was mud. And there was an opportunity for the Scouts BSA members to teach the Webelos how to keep a positive attitude no matter what.

“A handful of them were a little crazy,” says Haley Whitebook, 13, “but I really liked seeing all of the smiling faces.” ✦



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GREAT GEAR

BY MICHAEL LANZA

Grab a Seat

Create a comfortable camp with one of these great chairs.

THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF CAMP CHAIR: the one you brought, and the one someone else brought and you wish you had. Whether backpacking with an ultralight seat or car-camping with a more luxurious model (can you say “cup holder?”), a good camp chair will quickly convince you that a log or rock isn’t an acceptable substitute.

- When car-camping, a chair’s weight is less of a concern than its bulk. Look for comfortable chairs that pack well and have a pole structure that elevates your bottom as high off the ground as standard chairs, a taller back often with a head rest, and amenities like cup holders and good lumbar support.

- For backpacking and other remote camping treks, minimizing both weight and bulk takes priority. Ultralight portable chairs and chair kits that pair with an air mattress assemble quickly, pack down and weigh around a pound or less — and actually offer a surprising degree of comfort.

These chairs just might change your camping experience.



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Car-Camping Chairs

It's hard to beat the price tag and value of the **COLEMAN COOLER QUAD CHAIR** (\$30). Easy to assemble, it has 18 inches of clearance off the ground; plenty of seat width, depth and back height; and padding in the seat and back. The steel frame supports up to 325 pounds. It's heavy and perhaps not as comfortable as pricier models. But it comes with a cup holder, a side pocket with space for a large book, and a handy little armrest beverage cooler (capacity four cans). Assembled weight: 8 lbs. 13 oz.



The name of the **ALPS MOUNTAINEERING KING KONG** (\$60) says it all — with its 800-pound limit, this heavy-duty chair is strong. The well-padded seat and back raise comfort to a new level — as do the 38-inch back height, 24.5-inch-wide seat and 18-inch ground clearance. From the steel frame to the 600-denier seat fabric, it's built to last years and represents a super value. On the downside: It's heavy and bulky. 13 lbs.



Get out of your **HELINOX SUNSET CHAIR** (\$150) in camp, and it's likely someone else will quickly occupy it. No surprise, given the Sunset Chair's comfort: a plush 23-inch-wide seat and a back height of 38.5 inches — tall enough to put your head back — and you sit 14 inches off the ground. The single-shock-cord, DAC aluminum-alloy pole structure makes it easy to assemble in a minute, with the seat fabric sliding over the four frame tips. The frame is rated to hold 320 pounds. 3 lbs. 4 oz.



Backpacking Camp Chairs

Weighing barely north of a half-pound (in the smaller size), the **THERM-A-REST TREKKER CHAIR** (\$40-\$50) consists of nylon and fiberglass poles, and an elastic sleeve with enough stretch to insert either the brand's NeoAir mattress or other self-inflating air mats. Available in two widths (20 and 25 inches) to accommodate standard backpacking air mats, its seat elevates you 4 inches off the ground (with the air mat folded underneath you). It packs down to 4 by 20 inches (in the smaller size), easily tucking inside or on the outside of a backpack. It's not as stable or durable as a portable chair. 10 oz. or 13 oz.



The packable **REI CO-OP FLEXLITE AIR CHAIR** (\$100) gives you a true chair in camp. The aluminum frame snaps together like tent poles, and the ripstop nylon seat fabric slides securely over the frame, elevating you 11 inches off the ground. It's rated to hold 250 pounds, and the aluminum frame folds down easily. 1 lb. (not including 1-oz. stuff sack)



The **HELINOX CHAIR ZERO** (\$120) has accompanied me on numerous backpacking trips from Glacier National Park to Idaho's Sawtooths. At 18 ounces and 13.5 by 4 by 4 inches packed, it's light and compact. It assembles easily by slipping the fabric over a shock-corded pole structure, creating a seat that's 20 inches wide, 18.5 inches deep and 25 inches tall, and places your bottom 11 inches above terra firma. It's rated to hold 265 pounds; it seems a bit sturdier than other chairs. 1 lb. 2 oz. (not including 1-oz. stuff sack) ★





All-Veggie Ventures

Munch meatless on your next march into the wilderness with these tasty and healthy ideas.



A SCOUT DOES not live by chili mac alone.

With more people eschewing meat, Scout units and camps are finding it necessary to expand their camp menus to include more vegetarian fare.

“Requests for different types of dietary restrictions and vegan and vegetarian meals have increased in recent years, and that can make meal planning for backcountry treks challenging,” says Alison Richards, food services administrator for the Northern Tier High Adventure program in Minnesota.

That’s especially true for the week-long treks typical of high-adventure programs.

“The key is to make sure Scouts get enough protein and calories, and to

keep things simple,” Richards says.

Luckily, there are more freeze-dried vegetarian backpacking meals available than ever before, plus all sorts of lightweight and packable protein alternatives in grocery stores.

Here are some grocery products and recipes for a vegetarian adventure in eating well on the trail.

Breakfast

It’s easy to prep a vegetarian breakfast if you focus on hot cereals, hotcakes and eggs. If you go for cereal, be sure to use whole grains to get the belly-filling fiber, and find a way to add protein and some fat for long-burning energy. A scoop of peanut butter swirled into oatmeal does the job.



Toasted sunburst muesli from Outdoor Herbivore: Made with whole-grain oats, dates, seeds, walnuts, sugar and instant soymilk, this no-cook muesli mixes with cold water for an instant breakfast that’ll fill you up and get you back on the trail superfast.

Backpacker’s Pantry organic hot blueberry walnut oat and quinoa cereal: This quinoa-based cereal delivers 10 grams of plant-based protein. Walnuts supply alpha-linoleic acid, a heart-healthy omega 3 fatty acid.

Quaker instant oatmeal protein, four-flavor variety pack: Added whey protein powder boosts protein to 10 grams per serving. Flavors include cranberry almond, banana nut, cinnamon and maple brown sugar.

Great Value freeze-dried strawberry fruit crisps: Flavor up your instant oatmeal with these dried fruit chips that weigh next to nothing.

OvaEasy egg crystals: Here’s an easy way to take the perfect protein — eggs — on the trail, since refrigeration isn’t necessary. The packet contains the equivalent of 12 whole eggs. Shelf life: 2½ years.

Lunch

Lunches on a trek should be simple and quick, so you can eat on the go and get back to having fun, Richards says. Summer sausage is a favorite of Scouts at Northern Tier, she says, but that doesn’t work for vegetarians, so

lunches also typically include granola bars and plant-based jerky.

For your meatless lunches, there are lots of packaged options. You'll find a few below, or you can bring corn or flour tortillas, which are lightweight and easy to pack. Fill them with nut butters and jelly or honey. Foil packets of tuna are a great option for those who eat fish but not other meats. Fresh fruit, if you don't mind carrying the weight, is another healthy option everyone loves.

Primal Strips meatless vegan jerky: Made with shiitake mushrooms, soy and seitan, these jerky are a great source of meatless protein. Break them up to add to dinnertime burritos, stews or stir-fries.

Epic smoked salmon maple fillet strips: Pescatarians will like this easy-to-eat fish jerky for a quick, tasty protein fix.

StarKist, Bumble Bee, Wild Planet and Chicken of the Sea all make ready-to-eat tuna pouches for no-cook lunches or as part of noodle-based dinners or stews.

Munk Pack oatmeal fruit squeeze: If you don't mind carrying out the empty packaging, this squeezable oatmeal can serve nicely as a lunch, breakfast or snack. It comes in several flavors, including maple pear quinoa oatmeal, raspberry coconut oatmeal and apple quinoa cinnamon oatmeal.

Dinner

You've had a long day. You want to eat something tasty and substantial. Fortunately, pasta is lightweight and filling, and there are dozens of delicious vegan and vegetarian freeze-dried backpacking dinners to choose from. Here are some favorites.

Fantastic World Foods original hummus: While making your dinner, snack on an appetizer of hummus dip. Add boiling water and olive oil to this

dehydrated hummus mix, and you've got a protein-rich chickpea dip for your pita wedges or baby carrots.

Good To-Go Korean bibimbap: This spicy Korean mixed rice dish with carrots, sesame seeds and spinach kicks camp dinnertime up a notch.

TrailFork apricot almond couscous vegetarian backcountry dehydrated meals: Sweet and filling, this meal packs protein and long-burning

energy from the almonds and couscous. It comes in an environmentally friendly compostable bag, but pack it out, anyway.

Backpacker's Pantry Pad Thai veggie: A spicy blend of vegetables and noodles that cooks right in its pouch. Just add boiling water. ♣

JEFF CSATARI'S latest book is *The 14-Day No Sugar Diet*.

PREPARE AT HOME

OATMEAL PEANUT BUTTER BREAKFAST COOKIES

Make these a day or two before your outing for an energy-packed breakfast with your coffee or hot chocolate.

INGREDIENTS

⅓ cup chunky peanut butter
⅓ cup pure maple syrup
2 tablespoons plain almond milk
2 tbsp. ground flaxseed
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
½ cup oat flour
1½ cup rolled oats
½ cup almond meal
4 tbsp. date sugar
1⅓ tsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. salt
⅓ cup raisins
3 tbsp. nondairy chocolate chips

DIRECTIONS

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees.

Hand mix the peanut butter, maple syrup, milk, ground flaxseed and vanilla in a bowl, and set aside. Combine the oat flour, rolled oats, almond meal, date sugar, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, raisins and chocolate chips in a separate bowl.

In a large bowl, combine the wet and dry mixtures until well mixed.

Drop 1½ tbsp. scoops of the mixture on a baking sheet lined with parchment.

Bake for 11 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool for 2 minutes. Move to a cooling rack.



SESAME SOBA NOODLES

This Asian-inspired camp meal uses a peanut butter sauce to make it stick to the ribs. This recipe makes one serving.

INGREDIENTS

2 tsp. sesame oil
3 tsp. soy sauce
2 tsp. sriracha (less if you can't take the heat)
¼ cup creamy peanut butter
3½ oz. soba noodles
1 tbsp. sesame seeds

DIRECTIONS

At home, in a small bowl, mix the sesame oil, soy sauce and sriracha, and pour into a small plastic container with a screw top.

Break the noodles to make them easier to pack and place in a sealable plastic bag. If you're not bringing a container of peanut butter with you, put ¼ cup in a small plastic container or use a packet of peanut butter.

On the trail, place the noodles into a pot of boiling water so the water covers the noodles. Cook according to the package directions. When done, drain all but a tablespoon of the cooking water. Mix in the sauce and the peanut butter.



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Divvying Up Duties

How do you help Scouts keep the camp kitchen clean?



SCOUTS GET FIRED UP by much of what happens on a campout — hiking, exploring, games. Washing dishes? Not so much. They usually aren't wild about hauling water, either — or storing food and carrying out trash.

As long as chores need to be done, help your Scouts devise ways to make tasks fast, fair and maybe even fun. A key to getting there can be a chore chart — a simple grid dividing up duties.

Some leaders rely on chore charts to help teach organization, leadership and responsibility. Others hardly use them at all. Consider the experiences of two leaders coming from different ends of the chore-chart spectrum.

Lisa Battern is Scoutmaster of girl Troop 319 in Edmonds, Wash. She and her husband have been active in

Scouting for 18 years, serving units in Germany, Nebraska and Washington. Their four sons are Eagles, so she has been around plenty of Scouts and plenty of dirty dishes.

Before a camping trip, Battern assists the troop's senior patrol leader in filling out a chore chart, first making cooking assignments to Scouts with advancement needs for ranks or merit badges. Next, they pencil in the names of Scouts who will be assistant cooks, dishwashers, rinsers and dryers in a round-robin style, so no one repeats the same chore. The chart goes inside a plastic bag to protect it from weather and, once in camp, is prominently posted in the cooking/cleaning area.

Her experience has led away from having Scouts wash their own plates,

cups and silverware, though each Scout does pre-clean his or her own items by using a bucket of hot water at the front of the wash line.

"We affectionately call that the Yum-Yum Bucket," she laughs.

A rubber spatula comes in handy for scraping plates. Battern is hands-on in helping Scouts cook and set up wash lines.

"I provide them with hints that will make their efforts more successful, and if I am not needed elsewhere, I ask if they would like an extra pair of hands," she says. "By mentoring and being a role model, my actions help to develop those same traits in my Scouts."



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She sees kitchen duties as a means of fostering an environment that values help and respect.

Now, let's look across the country at Venturing Crew 152 in Blacksburg, Va. Youth there manage without a duty roster at all, even on extended treks along the Appalachian Trail and while exploring national parks in Utah and Canada.

Advisor Jeff Marion says minimizing chores starts with meal planning. The crew buys freeze-dried dinner ingredients in bulk in No. 10 cans. Before a trip, each crew member packs individual meals by adding a cup of freeze-dried dinner mix to a self-sealing plastic bag and then adding a crushed ramen noodle cake.

Meal preparation in the field requires little more than adding water to individual dinner bags and letting them stand for a couple of minutes.

"We eat out of the bags, so no dishes to wash," Marion says.

Since the crew uses lightweight backpacking stoves rather than campfires, there are no wood-gathering or fire-management chores. To simplify matters further, Venturers gather and filter their own water.

Similarly, each breakfast portion consists of a cup of cereal mixed with high-protein powder in a self-sealing bag. Add cold water and eat directly from the bag.

The crew organizes lunches on an individual basis, too, with Venturers loading and carrying their own bags of nuts, chocolate bits, dried fruit, crackers and whatever else they are willing to carry.

The crew leader polls the group on how far they want to hike each day and where to make camp. Adult leaders are consulted but do not vote. The Venturers also decide as a group what to do along the way: side hike to a vista, swim in a lake, or arrive at a campsite early enough to relax and enjoy being in a new place well before dark.

The closest the crew gets to a chore chart is assigning the jobs of navigator and co-navigator, responsible for map reading and route decisions. The following day, the co-navigator becomes the navigator, rotating the positions through the crew so everyone gets to serve.

Even with finding the way, Marion and other adult leaders support their Scouts rather than make decisions for them.

"Adults do not answer any navigation-related questions — these are directed to the two navigators," he says. "If they head down a wrong trail, we've been known to let them walk 10 or 15 minutes before asking if they might want to reconsider where they are going."

Though they've chosen different approaches to seeing that chores get done, Battern and Marion would

agree that the Leading EDGE technique is at the heart of their success as they Explain what needs to happen in camp, Demonstrate how that can be done, Guide Scouts to success and then Enable them to move forward on their own. ✦

ROBERT BIRKBY is author of three editions of *The Boy Scout Handbook*, two editions of the BSA's *Fieldbook* and the newest edition of the *Conservation Handbook*. Find him at robertbirkby.com



A 'CLEAN' CAMP IN 1911

It took the early Scouts a while to settle on the chore chart as a tool for managing a camp kitchen and even to figure out an appropriate way to wash dishes. In 1911, the first edition of the *Boy Scouts Handbook* says only this:

"First, fill the frying-pan with water, place over the fire and let it boil. Pour out water and you will find the pan has practically cleaned itself. Clean the griddle with sand and water. Greasy knives and forks may be cleaned by jabbing them into the ground. After all grease is gotten rid of, wash in hot water and dry with cloth."

You're Not Alone

Recognize the signs of what creatures you're sharing the woods with.



THERE ARE MANY REASONS to recognize and learn how to follow animal signs and tracks in the wild. They could lead you to water or a meal. They could also make you aware of nearby danger.

Be Aware

When I was filming a *Survivorman* episode in India, I came across a large set of tiger tracks in a dry riverbed. The recent tracks were a healthy reminder for me to be alert. But how

did I know it was a tiger and not another animal?

Often enough, it's easy to categorize animal tracks within their species. Cats. Canines (this includes bears). Ungulates (hooved animals, such as deer, moose or elk). Rodents. Birds. Insects. All might represent food or danger or information about the environment.

For example, snow melts throughout the day in the sunshine. If you find a large footprint, the animal might be much smaller than the track indicates, due to the snow melting and expanding.

This, of course, requires understanding of when a track was made. There are several indicators to look for:

Les Stroud, aka *Survivorman*, is an adventurer and award-winning filmmaker and author. He's writing a children's book on adventure, hosting a new series on American Public Television and launching a podcast, "Surviving Life with Les Stroud!" Visit lesstroud.ca or follow him on social media @reallesstroud

- ▶ Does the track seem to have been melted by the sun?
- ▶ Are there any leaves or debris inside the track?
- ▶ If it's in mud, is the mud dry and hard?

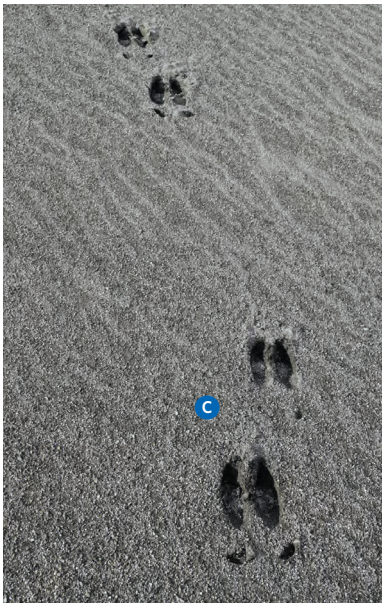
Actions depicted in this article represent extreme scenarios and may not precisely follow standard procedures. When instructing youth, always consult official BSA guidelines.



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► What signs of the animal exist by the track, such as leaves that might have been nibbled off?

A single animal track tells a partial story. In the area around the track might be all kinds of accomplice signs for completing the story.

Identifying Tracks

Once you learn that, for example, cat's claws are retractable, it will be easier to figure out if the print is a cougar or a wolf. Canine claws always stick out and therefore almost always leave a mark in the mud, sand or snow.

Very simple differences make it easy to identify an animal within a given species. Moose hoofprints are heart-shaped. Elks almost always leave behind markings from their "dew claws." Deer hoofprints are much smaller and shaped like an arrowhead. When it comes to canines, it can be tough to tell the difference between a wolf and a domestic dog, so you

have to take the whole picture into account. Become a wilderness detective and answer some questions: Are you anywhere near human settlement? When you step back and look at the line of tracks (several tracks leading somewhere), are they in a determined straight line or are they meandering all over the place? Wolves don't have time to frolic, so they tend to walk straight to where they're headed, maybe leaving a mark here and there by urinating on a stump or bush. Dogs lollygag all over the place, so large meandering tracks are more likely a big dog than a wolf.

One of my favorite tricks with animal tracks is figuring out how big their maker is. It's really quite simple and often very accurate. Try to find all four paws showing clearly as tracks on the ground. Take your hands and put them beside the first and third tracks. Now, assuming you know what kind of animal it is, trace an imaginary line in the air to indicate how big you think

the canine or cat might be based on the first and third paw placements. Simply outline the shape of the animal. Try it at home with your dog and your cat.

Other Signs

Further signs to understand are those that indicate animals' habits, such as how they poop in the woods. Ungulates go wherever they please, so there's not much rhyme or reason to finding big piles of moose droppings. Cats and canines, on the other hand, pee and poop with a purpose. It's either to mark territory, seek out a mate or possibly warn off an intruder. Bears scratch trees, and the bigger the bear is, the higher up they scratch. However, ungulates rub trees with their antlers, so being able to determine if the markings are rubbings versus scratches helps you know if you're in bear territory or there's a big bull moose nearby. Either way, it's time to move on! ♦

A. Mountain Lion, B. Wolf, C. Moose

Terrific Trailers

These units travel in style by showcasing Scouting on the road.

WHETHER YOU USE a vehicle wrap or a few buckets of paint, decorating your unit's equipment trailer is a great way to advertise your unit and Scouting. We asked Scouters to share their wheeled wonders. Visit go.scoutingmagazine.org/showandtell to send us yours.

You can also show us other ways you make Scouting shine through the online submission form or by emailing us at scoutingmag@gmail.com or via social media using #ScoutingShowandTell



Simple and safe

The borough of Wood-Ridge, N.J., allows Troop 181 to store its trailer in the town's department of public works lot to keep it safe. The trailer features an American flag and Scouting logo.

"It's not fancy, but we're proud of it," Scoutmaster John Marasciulo says.



Words matter

Scouts of Troop 48 in Germantown, Tenn., provided input for their trailer's design. A graphic artist took their suggestions and created this design, complete with a tagline, "Get on the Right Trail." Words from the Scout Law make up the blue background, which also features silhouettes of Scouts doing cool activities.

"Well worth the money for her effort," Scoutmaster Brian Issing says.



Through the ranks

At his first summer camp, Scoutmaster Trevor Kinley concocted this design for Troop 12 of Montgomery, Ill. One side shows the Scouts BSA ranks from Scout through Life, along with the chartering organization's name and city. The back lists the troop's Eagle Scouts with a picture of the Eagle Scout emblem.



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Converted camper

The Scouts and adults of Troop 12 in Leominster, Mass., stripped a camper down to the frame, painted it and replaced the axle. They installed part of an old telephone utility truck to the frame so they could have built-in compartments for equipment.

“Each compartment contains a specific type of gear,” Scoutmaster Eric Mabie says. “We have one compartment just for tents; one for tools, axes, saws; another for lanterns; one for pots and pans. Each compartment has a picture of everything that’s supposed to be in it and how it’s to be organized. It makes finding things quick and easy.”

Other areas on the trailer have room for patrol boxes, tables, firewood, fishing poles, propane tanks and personal gear.



That's a wrap

A former committee chair designed this wrap for the trailer belonging to Troop 77 of DeWitt, Mich., Scoutmaster Joel Wilkins Sr. says. The red, white and blue wrap is decorated with map contour lines, and one side highlights the troop’s website address and the tagline: “Prepared. For Life.” The other side lists the troop’s Eagle Scouts, while the back notes the troop’s sponsors, the local Lions and Lionesses clubs. ✦

STAY SECURE

Trailer theft happens. Here are a few tips for warding off potential thieves:

- ▶ Purchase a wheel lock.
- ▶ Block the rear doors by parking the trailer against a wall or some other permanent structure.
- ▶ Don’t store any gear inside overnight.
- ▶ Park in a well-lit area or at the home of an adult leader.
- ▶ Ask your local police department if they’ll let you store the trailer with them.
- ▶ Paint your trailer so it’s easily identifiable.
- ▶ Get your trailer and its contents insured.

Visit go.scoutingmagazine.org/podcast for more tips on keeping your unit’s gear safe and secure.



IT'S SHOW AND TELL TIME! Get ideas and share your own at go.scoutingmagazine.org/showandtell

Slowing the Spread

Though many communicable diseases are treatable, preventing the infection before it happens is still the best approach.



COMMUNICABLE DISEASES might be acute (recent onset), chronic (persistent) or both, but one thing is for sure: They exist everywhere. An awareness of the most widely accepted medical approaches to these problems can help Scout leaders plan and conduct safer events.

At some point, we've all caught some kind of infection — or sickness — from someone else. These illnesses are known as communicable or con-

tagious diseases, because they can spread from one person to another.

They might occur when a healthy person comes into contact with a sick person. Or they can occur by touching something that a sick person has touched.

Communicable diseases are caused by germs — both viruses and bacteria. Examples include colds, the common flu and strep throat. You can catch infections in several different ways, but all involve germs coming in contact with mucous membranes (like your eyes, nose or mouth) or through breaks in the skin (like a cut or hangnail).

Complete this quiz online to be entered to win a \$100 [scoutshop.org](https://www.scoutshop.org) gift card. Visit go.scoutingmagazine.org/safetyquiz

Read about communicable disease prevention [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#), and then come back and take our quiz.

Quiz questions

1 Good and frequent handwashing is the most important step you can take to prevent spreading germs.

- a) True
- b) False

2 Wear gloves in the following circumstances:

- a) When performing first aid
- b) When cleaning the toilet
- c) When cleaning up bodily fluids
- d) Anytime there is potential contact with an infected person or object
- e) All of the above

3 Which of the following is not a common difference between the cold and the flu?

- a) Colds usually come on slowly; the flu hits you abruptly
- b) Body aches are usual with colds and rare with the flu
- c) Headaches are rare with colds and common with the flu
- d) A fever is rare with colds and common with the flu

4 To reduce airborne germs, everyone should be encouraged to cough:

- a) Into their hands
- b) Into an elbow or shoulder
- c) Into the air away from others
- d) At least 6 feet away from others



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5 Which of the following are ways that influenza and the common cold can spread? (There might be more than one correct answer!):

- a) Direct contact
- b) Airborne droplets
- c) Fecal/oral transmission
- d) Blood or mucous membrane contact
- e) Vector spread (like a mosquito or tick)

6 Which of the following is not part of the CDC's recommended handwashing technique?

- a) Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap and apply soap.
- b) Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers and under your nails.
- c) Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds, or about as long as it takes to hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice.
- d) Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
- e) Let your hands air dry.

7 Which of the following is not listed by the CDC as a key time to wash your hands?

- a) After eating food
- b) After preparing food
- c) After handling pet food
- d) After treating a cut or wound

8 Which of the following is not an effective way to reduce the spread of disease?

- a) Staying away from others who are ill.
- b) Not sharing personal items such as combs, cups, towels, soap or eating utensils.
- c) Drinking plenty of fluids.
- d) Wearing gloves, discarding them before touching anything else and washing your hands immediately after.
- e) Not touching obviously infected areas, such as a fever blister or wound.

9 Someone who has experienced one of the following symptoms in the 24 hours leading up to an event should stay home: unexplained extreme fatigue or muscle aches, rash, cough, sore throat or open sore

- a) True
- b) False

10 Which of the following should not be part of a pre-event medical screening that asks participants about any symptoms they've experienced in the previous 24 hours?

- a) Fever of 100.4 F or greater
- b) Vomiting
- c) Diarrhea
- d) Sneezing/runny nose
- e) All of the above should be part of the medical screening. ✦



Quiz answers

- 1 A. True.
- 2 E. All of the above.
- 3 B. Aches are slight with colds and typical with the flu.
- 4 B. Cough into an elbow or shoulder no matter how close you are to others. Droplets of infected material might contain viruses or bacteria that remain alive for many minutes or even hours.
- 5 A and B.
- 6 E. It's OK to dry your hands with a clean cloth or paper towel.
- 7 A. After eating. Always remember to wash them before eating!
- 8 C. While drinking fluids can help you stay healthier overall, it does not reduce the risk of spreading an infection.
- 9 B. False. If someone has any two (or more) of these symptoms, he or she should stay home.
- 10 D. Sneezing and/or a runny nose alone do not always indicate a communicable illness (e.g., seasonal allergies). However, if the participant has experienced fever, vomiting or diarrhea in the previous 24 hours, he or she should stay home.

For additional advice about keeping young people safe during Scouting adventures, visit scouting.org/health-and-safety

CAMP V-BAR

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MAIN PHOTOGRAPH BY SEAN GARDNER
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WILD WATER WEDNESDAY offers a break from merit badge instruction and a chance to take advantage of open aquatics areas at the lake!

But the V-Bar fun doesn't stop as the sun goes down. Each evening features something special. The Monday night Watermelon Bash, ice-cream social and Friday night closing campfire are not to be missed.

"Gumbo troops" are made up of individual Scouts who, for whatever reason, couldn't attend summer camp with their troop. Now everyone can experience summer camp and make new buddies. ✦

— Michael Freeman



Find more Cool Camps by visiting
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A TRUE STORY OF SCOUTERS IN ACTION

**He Saved
Her From
A Knife
Attack!**

Bruce Johnson, 79, was walking home in Seattle, Wash., when he saw an injured woman screaming for help and running away from a woman who was armed with a knife.



With no thought for his own safety, Johnson immediately stepped between the victim and her attacker. Johnson spoke calmly while trying to defuse the situation as the attacker repeatedly threatened him.



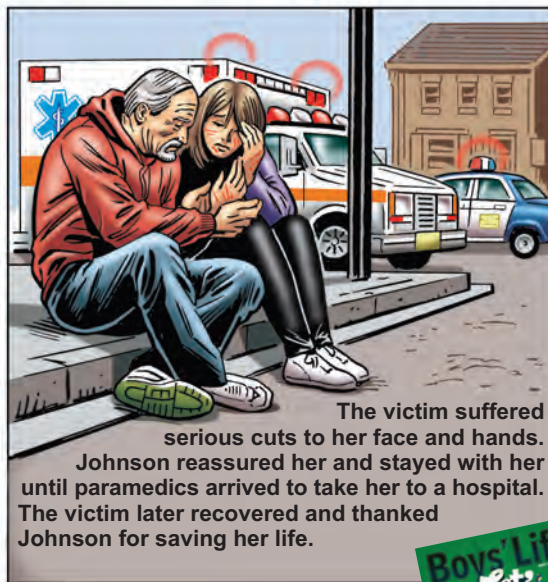
A bystander called 911. Johnson told the woman to run to safety.



The attacker began to walk away as the sound of police sirens drew closer. Johnson kept her in sight as she fled.

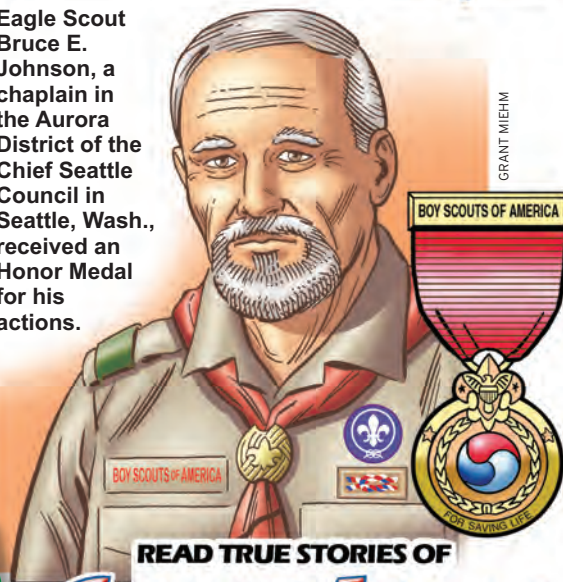


When a police car arrived and blocked the woman's path, Johnson returned to help the victim.



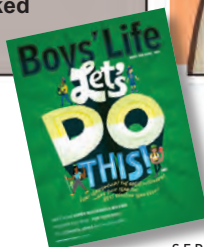
The victim suffered serious cuts to her face and hands. Johnson reassured her and stayed with her until paramedics arrived to take her to a hospital. The victim later recovered and thanked Johnson for saving her life.

Eagle Scout Bruce E. Johnson, a chaplain in the Aurora District of the Chief Seattle Council in Seattle, Wash., received an Honor Medal for his actions.



GRANT MIEHM

"Scouters In Action" subjects come from the National BSA Court of Honor. If you know of an act of heroism that should be recognized, contact your local BSA council office for a lifesaving or meritorious award application. Note: Consult approved safety guidelines, as actions depicted here may not precisely follow standard procedures.



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