

# BOY SCOUT PROGRAM NOTES

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## OUTDOOR ETHICS

As of January 1, 2013, the BSA will be changing the Leave No Trace Awareness Award to the Outdoor Ethics Award. While Leave No Trace will continue to be a partner organization, so will Tread Lightly and the National Forest Service. New requirements can be found at [www.scouting.org/scoutsource/OutdoorProgram/OutdoorEthics.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/OutdoorProgram/OutdoorEthics.aspx)



## SCOUTING FOR FOOD

Scouting for Food is one of the largest national good turns by the Boy Scouts of America. It was started in 1985. Hunger is still a issue for too many of our fellow Americans.

All Boy Scout Troops should consider rededicating themselves to the Scouting for Food drive in 2013. While camping and adventure bring boys into Scouting, service to others is the reason we exist.

Waukesha County District Attorney Brad Schimmel will be the Council Chairman for this service project in 2013.

Scouting for Food bags should be distributed on Saturday, March 16. Troops should work with their district volunteers to ensure that every neighborhood in our council is covered. The bag distribution involves Scouts and their families going to the neighbors and leaving the bag on the door knob. A Scout may

wish to talk with the residents, but the bag is self-explanatory.

The following Saturday, March 23 is when the Scouts should return to all houses that had bags left at them. Ideally the residents will leave the bag with goods in it on the door knob for quick pick up. However, don't be afraid to knock and ask if they forgot about the Scouting for Food drive. Many well meaning people forget to place the bag out.

Food will then be

collected via a mechanism that will be distributed by the council team closer to the service project.

Please make sure that your Boy Scout Troop places this event on their calendar. It only takes an hour or so if each boy just hands out ten bags and collects them the following weekend. While much food is donated over the Christmas holidays, hunger is a year round issue and Scouting for Food serves a real community need.



## NOVA CON 2013

All youth in grades 3-12 (or equivalent) are invited to design a science fair project or invention to submit for the Nova-Con 2013 Science & Engineering Fair to be held **Saturday, February 16 at Waukesha County Technical College.**

Programs will also be conducted in the morning that can help Scouts earn a Nova award. Creating a project may also be used for credit toward a Supernova Award.



## THE OUTDOOR CODE

As an American, I will do my best to—

- Be clean in my outdoor manners.
- Be careful with fire.
- Be considerate in the outdoors.
- Be conservation minded.

## THE PATROL METHOD

The patrol method is one of the essential components of what makes Scouting not just be a fun club, but a “game with a purpose” in helping our boys become men of character, fitness, and good citizenship.

It can be tempting to well organized adults to center the Troop’s program around outings and events that can be planned for the entire troop to participate as one unit. Perhaps Patrols are only quick organizational tools to take attendance. This is a shame since the patrol method is designed to teach boys leadership and how a democratic



republic works.

If the troops makes all decisions by a complete vote of the boys, this teaches boys about democracy, but the United States is a republic (think of the pledge of allegiance). It is not possible to gather more the 300 million people to vote on every issue. Patrol leaders working through the patrol leader council learn to represent their fellow Scouts

at the Patrol Leader’s Council. Representing the needs and wants of others is not a skill that can be taught through lecture, only through doing and reflecting.

Further, the patrol method allows more boys to experience leadership. While serving as Senior Patrol Leader is an excellent leadership experience, only a limited number of boys can experience it. By truly implementing the patrol method, a troop expands true leadership opportunities to groups of 6-8 boys which can more easily rotate that leadership responsibility.

See the link below for great resources from the National Council.

[www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/PatrolLeader.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/PatrolLeader.aspx)

## THE TROOP TREASURER

A Troop Treasurer is a vital volunteer needed for the successful administration of the Boy Scouting Program. The Treasurer should be registered as a member of the Troop Committee. National suggests the

following job duties:

- Handle all troop **funds**. Pay bills on the recommendation of the Scoutmaster and authorization of the troop committee
- Maintain checking and savings accounts
- Train and supervise the troop scribe in record keeping.
- Keep adequate records in the *Troop/Team Record Book*.
- Supervise the camp savings plan.
- Lead in the preparation of the annual troop budget.
- Lead the Friends of Scouting campaign.
- Keep adequate records of expenses



# UPCOMING MERIT BADGE CHANGES

Many exciting changes are coming to the merit badge program in the Boy Scouts of America. Before sharing these changes, it is important to remember the National Policy regarding requirement changes.

New requirements usually become effective on Jan. 1 of a year, with the release of Boy Scout Requirements, No. 34765. The [Guide to Advancement](#) then allows the following options for the period of time between the release of the revised pamphlet and the Jan. 1 effective date:

- If Scouts have already started on the merit badge, they may switch to the new requirements or continue with the old ones until the badge is completed.
- If Scouts have not already started on the merit badge, they may opt to use the new require-

ments and the new pamphlet.

- If work on the merit badge begins before Jan. 1 of the effective year, they may use the old requirements and old pamphlet until the badge is completed.

The Guide to Advancement, under the same topic, goes on to say, "There is no time limit between starting and completing a badge, although a counselor may determine so much time has passed since any effort took place that the new requirements must be used."

Now, on to some of the planned changes.



## Cooking

Cooking merit badge will become an Eagle Required merit badge on January 1, 2014. The requirements of this badge will be undergoing substantial updates during 2013. All boys applying for Eagle Scout after January 1, 2014 will need to have earned

Cooking merit badge, unless the only requirement they have not completed is the Board of Review.

## Cycling

The requirements are being updated to include a mountain biking option.



## Sustainability

A new sustainability merit badge will be introduced during the summer of 2013. It will become an alternate Eagle required merit badge to Environmental Science. Boys can choose to earn both and apply one of the badges as an elective badge.

## Game Design

This new merit badge will be released in the spring of 2013. Scouts will be able to learn about electronic, outdoor/athletic, tabletop, pen and paper games, and role playing games.

## Programming

Programming merit badge will be released at the 2013 National Jamboree.

## Digital Technology

Technology has come a long way since Computers merit badge was first introduced in 1967. This badge, which replaces Computers, will teach Scouts about technology in the digital age. This will be released in late 2013.

## Animation

In 2014, this merit badge will teach Scouts about computer or traditional animation through tasks that will test a Scout's creativity, artistic skills, and storytelling abilities.

## Signs, Signals, and Codes

American Sign Language (ASL) is the third most used language in the United States. The Signs, Signals, and Codes merit badge will cover Morse code, ASL, Braille, signaling, trail markings, and other nonverbal communications. This badge will be released in 2014.

## Multi-Media

This merit badge will be released in 2014.

## Computer-Aided Design

Teaching boys to use computer systems to assist in the creation, modification, analysis, or optimization of a design. This will be released in 2015.

## Advanced Computing

This will be released in 2015.



## Potawatomi Area Council

*We Cultivate Leaders*

**Northern Lights District** serves the communities of Brookfield, Butler, Colgate, Elm Grove, Erin, Germantown, Hubertus, Lannon, Menomonee Falls, Pewaukee, Richfield, and Sussex.

**Onatah District** serves the communities of Big Bend, East Troy, Mukwonago, Muskego, New Berlin, North Prairie, and Waukesha.

**River Trails District** serves the communities of Ashippun, Delafield, Dousman, Eagle, Genesee Depot, Hartland, Johnson Creek, Lac La Belle, Lebanon, Merton, North Lake, Oconomowoc, Okauchee, Pamyra, Rome, Stonebank, Sullivan, Wales, and Watertown

Web: [pacbsa.org](http://pacbsa.org)

Twitter: @pacweb

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## Potawatomi Area Council Boy Scout Committee

*Please contact with any  
questions*

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*The Potawatomi Area Council serves Waukesha county and portions of Jefferson, Dodge, Walworth, and Washington counties. It was founded in 1931 when community leaders sought a separate council from the then Indian Trails Council headquartered in Janesville. Over 7,000 youth from ages 7-20 were served by 221 units in 2011. The council operates due to the generous efforts of over 2500 volunteers and a dedicated full time staff of seven professional Scouters, a Camp Ranger, and six staff.*

*Camp Long Lake is the council's 200 acre camping property that hosts six weeks of Boy Scout Resident Camp, three sessions of Webelos Resident Camps, seven sessions of Cub Scout Family Camp, and various unit camp outs and adult leader training sessions. Camp Long Lake was purchased in 1946 in the midst of the celebration of the young men and women who changed the world through their service in World War II.*

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

**Vision Statement of the Boy Scouts of America:** *The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.*

## ORDER OF THE ARROW ELECTIONS

The Order of the Arrow is Scouting's National Honor Society. Each spring, the lodge OA lodge Wag-O-Shag will conduct elections in all eligible Boy Scout Troops.

Election to the OA should not be seen as an award for service. Scouting has many awards that serve that function. Election to the OA does serve as a recognition for those who live by the Scout Oath and Law and demonstrate the Scout Habit of Cheerful Service.

Troops that choose to nominate adult candidates should also remember that OA nomination is about service to the council and lodge, not just wearing a sash to impress others (in fact, that is against the spirit of the organization).

Each Scoutmaster should prepare a list of eligible Scout candidates before the scheduled election. All boys on the list must

1. Be a registered member of the Boy Scouts of America.
2. After registration with a troop, have experienced **15 days and nights of Boy Scout camping** during the two-year period prior to the election. The 15 days and nights must include one, *but no more than one*, long-term camp consisting of six consecutive days and five nights of resident camping, approved and under the auspices and standards of the Boy Scouts of America. The balance of the camping must be overnight, weekend, or other short-term camps. **Day trips do not count.**
3. Hold the First Class rank or higher,

4. Be approved by the Scoutmaster as living by the Oath and Law.

Adults (age 21 or older) who are registered in the BSA and **meet the camping requirements** may be selected following nomination to the lodge adult selection committee. Adult selection is based on their ability to perform the necessary functions to help the Order fulfill its purpose, and is *not for recognition of service*, including current or prior positions. The number of adults nominated can be no more than one-third of the number of youth candidates elected, rounded up.

