Great Alaska Council Top Stories

Annual Recognition Banquet

**Date:** Saturday February 17, 2016  
**Location:** Anchorage Hilton Hotel

Silver Beavers, Class of 2017 Eagles, and the State of Alaska's first Summit Awardee will be recognized! Other surprise awards will be announced!

Eagle Scouts and the Summit Awardee from the Class of 2017 will be recognized and can attend at no cost - if they register.

Sponsorship for Eagles are available! Contact the Scout Shop!  
Admission and sponsorships are $65.00

Units and parents can purchase an ad for individual Eagles or for their business. [Click Here for the Ad Form]

Guest speaker is Chris Hunt, retired National Advancement Director and Author of the Guide to Advancement. He will be
both fun and inspirational!

Registration is now open! Click Here to Register.

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Pick.Click.Give to the Great Alaska Council

Permanent Fund Dividend applications are in full swing! Please consider the Great Alaska Council when you choose to Pick.Click.Give.

*Bring your printed confirmation page to your unit leader during the Friends of Scouting Presentations in February and March to help your unit earn the Friends of Scouting Discount to Camp this summer!*

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Scout Shop Closures

Scout Office will be closed on the following dates:

- January 15, 2018 in observation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- January 22, 2018 for a staff development conference.

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Scoutbook Lite to Replace Internet Advancement

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is excited to roll out a new solution in the second quarter of 2018 that will leverage core components of the Scoutbook platform

The current Internet Advancement platform will be retired and replaced by a new online tool called Scoutbook Lite.

This new application is being developed now from the ground up so that unit leaders can quickly key in advancement and other key data. It will sport a slick new user interface optimized for desktop,
tablet, and mobile devices.

The BSA has found that less than 10% of units use the CSV (comma-separated values) data file import feature in Internet Advancement. In the interest of focusing on tools that serve more Scouters, the CSV data file import will not be supported once the current Internet Advancement platform is discontinued.

Other than the CSV import feature, Scoutbook Lite will offer optimized functions for everything found in the current Internet Advancement platform.

The Scoutbook database will become the official record of advancement for the Boy Scouts of America..... And BSA will continue to work on and improve Scoutbook as our full feature application.

If you have questions, please contact Kris Stoehner, at akspring3@gci.net

Cub Scouts

February 8th - Happy Birthday Scouting!

Cub Pack's Blue and Gold Banquets in the month of February celebrate Scouting's birthday. These banquets are a fun time for Scouts, Scouters, friends, and family to join together. In this Trail Talk, we share an article from Bryan on Scouting from a previous year. This blog discusses ideas and themes Packs can use for their own Blue and Gold Banquets.

Ideas for Cub Scout Blue and Gold Banquets

January Pack Theme: Helpful
There are many ways that people can be helpful. One way is by volunteering time to help others. Cub Scouts, Scout leaders, and coaches are examples of volunteers. Another way people help is by doing jobs that provide a service. This month we celebrate those who help out in their homes, schools, and communities.

Click Here to Download the Pack Meeting Plan for January

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**Boy Scouts and Venturing**

**Southcentral Freezoree**

Register today and avoid late fees!

Date: February 16-18  
Location: Camp Gorsuch  
Cost: $15 per scout & $3 for adults

Join us for the 2018 Klondike Derby!

[Click Here to Register and print the Leader's Guide](#)

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**2019 World Scout Jamboree**

Are you prepared to join the Boy Scouts of America Contingent to the 24th World Scout Jamboree?

The 24th World Scout Jamboree will take place at the Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve in West Virginia from July 21, 2019 to August 2,
Participation is open to eligible youth (age 14 - 17), unit leaders (18 and older) and International Service Team (IST), who serve as Jamboree Staff (18 and older).

Are you interested in the latest information about this once-in-a-lifetime Jamboree including FAQs, Registration Information, and links to our Social Media outlets?

Check out the WSJ 2019 Official Site

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**Order of the Arrow News**

**Dues, Dues, Dues**

It is that time of year again to re-charter for the new year! Like the Council, in order to remain a member of the Order of the Arrow lodge one must renew their dues annually. It is easy to remember and do during the BSA re-charter time for the new year. You can easily renew your dues for 2018!

[Click Here to Renew Your Dues]

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**Lodge Leadership Development**

All Arrowmen are invited to attend Lodge Leadership Development (LLD), a dynamic annual leadership training held each January for officers and advisors to learn more about the Order of the Arrow, the Nanuk Lodge, and how to become a better leader. Training classes include leadership development, event planning, goal setting, and other tools needed to improve chapters. LLD is the yearly training for new officers and those who
want to serve as officers or leaders in our organization. It is open to both OA youth and adults! The program will be Friday night through Saturday until the start of the Lodge banquet. Must register for the Banquet separately.

Click Here to Register for Lodge Leadership Development

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**Lodge Banquet Information**

This is annual banquet is where we can join together to celebrate the accomplishments of the Lodge from the past year, recognize our outgoing lodge officers, swear in our new officers and present our Founder Awards to deserving arrowmen. We encourage you to come out and support the lodge and join us for a night of fun, fellowship, and amazing food!

The Annual Pass is a one time payment that pre-registers you to the Banquet and all Mainland lodge events for 2018 and your dues for the year. (Does not include Sectional, Regional, or National Events)

Click Here to Register for the Lodge Banquet

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**District Information**

**Bear Paw District**

The Bear Paw District covers the communities of Palmer, Wasilla, Valdez, Big Lake, Willow, Talkeetna, and Glennallen.

Click Here to visit the Bear Paw District Page

Questions?
**Gordon Ward, District Commissioner**
Email: gord@mtaonline.net

**Russ Ingram, District Chair**
Email: ingramwr@gmail.com
**Denali District**

The Denali District covers the communities of Anchorage (South of Tudor, West of Gambell), Girdwood, Indian.

[Click Here](#) to visit the Denali District Page

Questions?

**Paul Ritz, District Chair**
Email: paul_ritz@yahoo.com

**Vacant: District Commissioner**

**Brad Lewis, District Executive**
Email: brad.lewis@scouting.org

To the Denali District Units:

I do not have hard statistics how the District completed 2017. Just as soon as I do, I will provide statistics.

I hope that everyone had fun over the Christmas break and got outside to enjoy the outdoors. I know that some of the units did have some outside activities. Congratulations to those units that did!

I am still in need of someone to help with coordinating the Friends of Scouting presentations for the Cub Scout Packs. Please let me know if you can even help.

I am encouraging Packs to start planning Blue and Gold Pack Meetings. There will be some help at the Next Round Table. The Blue and Gold is also a good time to have a Friends of Scouting presentation made.

Pine Wood Derby: Packs should also start planning their Pine Wood Derby. There is good information on the Web on how to make the fastest car.
The Scout Troops should start planning to go to the Freezoree.

If any of the units have needs, please let me know and I will provide assistance.

Paul Ritz, Denali District Chair

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**Eklutna District**

The Eklutna District covers the communities of Anchorage (North of Tudor, East of Gambell), Eagle River, Birchwood, Peter's Creek, Chugiak, and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

[Click Here](#) to visit the Eklutna District Page

Questions?

**Scott Wesierski, District Chair**

**John Woyte, District Commissioner**

Email: [john.woyte@gmail.com](mailto:john.woyte@gmail.com)

**Mathieu Frohlich, District Executive**

Email: [mathieu.frohlich@scouting.org](mailto:mathieu.frohlich@scouting.org)

Cell: 907-887-4245

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**Learning for Life District**

The District of Learning for Life serves the following programs for the entire Council:

- **Learning for Life Curriculum**: Character Education and Substance Abuse Prevention
- **Exploring**: Hands-on, career exploration for middle school and high school students
- **STEM Scouts**: Co-ed Scouting program for Scouts 3rd-12th grade.

Questions?

**Keith Miller, District Chair**

Email: [j.keith.miller@gmail.com](mailto:j.keith.miller@gmail.com)
Maritime District

The Maritime District covers the communities of Haines, Skagway, Sitka, Gustavus, and the greater Juneau area.

Click Here to visit the Maritime District Page

Questions?
Martin Suzuki, District Chair
Email: juneausuzuki@gmail.com

Fred Thorsteinson, District Commissioner
Email: fredthorsteinson@gci.net

Thomas Ramos, District Para-professional
Email: thomas.ramos@scouting.org

Totem District

The Totem District covers the communities of Ketchikan, Prince of Wales, Wrangell, and Petersburg.

Click Here to visit the Totem District Page

Questions?
Dennis Olsen, District Commissioner
Email: doko@kpunet.net

John Lubbers, Assistant Scout Executive
Email: john.lubbers@scouting.org

Tustumena District

The Tustumena District covers the Kenai Peninsula, in addition to the rural communities Alaska including Kodiak and Cordova.

Click Here to visit the Tustumena District Page
Questions?
Vacant: District Chair

Eric Willets, District Commissioner
Email: willets.eric@gmail.com

Brad Lewis, District Executive
Email: brad.lewis@scouting.org
Cell: 717-405-2336