Great Alaska Council Top Stories

Kayaking Merit Badge Counselor Certification

The Great Alaska Council is holding American Canoe Association Level 2 Assessments that meets National BSA standards to order to certify Kayaking Merit Badge Counselors. If successful, Scouters will be certified as having accomplished the Assessments under the ACA. Scouters can then apply to be a Kayaking Merit Badge Counselor.

Dates for the Anchorage

Session #1  Click Here to Register
Wednesday, May 9, 5:00 to 9:00 at the Scout Office
Saturday, May 12, 7:00 to 5:00 at Camp Gorsuch.

Session #2  Click Here to Register
Wednesday, May 16, 5:00 to 9:00 at the Scout Office
Saturday, May 19, 7:00 to 5:00 at Camp Gorsuch

Outside Anchorage area classes are in the process of being arranged.

Scouters are required to provide:
-Kayak, paddle and spray skirt
-PFD that fits
-Dry suit or paddling jacket. Students will be in and out of the
water during the day so they should dress appropriately.
- Dry clothes
- Sack lunch

The cost is $40 to cover the American Canoe Association Membership fee.

Students will also need to bring:
- copy of their current Youth Protection Certificate,
- Safe Swim Defense Certificate
- Safety Afloat Certificate
- Merit Badge Counselor application, and an
- Adult Scout application (no additional fee)

Sporting Clays Classic

Shoot for Scouting! Enjoy delicious BBQ, good friends, and an afternoon of fun at this year's Michael L. Foster & Associates Sporting Clays Classic.

Date: May 18, 2017
Location: Grouse Ridge, Wasilla

Cost
Single Shooter: $150
Team: $650

Sponsorship opportunities available at all levels!

Click Here to Register
Questions? Contact Matt Frohlich

Please make all checks out to Great Alaska Council or GAC

Thank you so much for giving us your money. We love it! Just a gentle reminder to write any check to the council using our legal name Great Alaska Council or the abbreviation GAC.
The poor tellers at our banks are put under unneeded duress when we attempt to deposits checks made out to other names like, but by no means limited to, FOS, Scout Camp, Nanuk Lodge, Popcorn, Spring Camporee, just to name a few. Thanks for the help and keep the checks, with our name on them, coming!

Be Prepared for the 2018 Popcorn Sale by Signing Up Today!

Now is the time to sign up for the most successful Scouting fundraiser ever, the annual popcorn sale! Popcorn is a great way to fund your Scouting program! Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, Venturing Crews, Sea Scout Ships, Explorer Posts and yes, even our brand new STEM Scout Labs can sign up for the 2018 popcorn sale.

Here is the link to register:
https://www.scoutingalaska.org/popcornsignup

Scoutbook Lite Update:
Scoutbook to Replace Internet Advancement

Article taken from Advancement News
Questions: akspring3@gci.net

Many questions have arisen as the journey to release Scoutbook Lite in the 2nd quarter of this year continues. Here are answers to some questions and a general update.

What will be the release date?

The expectation is that Scoutbook Lite will be released sometime during the next few months; an exact release date has not been confirmed. This is the result of the BSA taking appropriate steps to have developers finish final coding and user interfaces. Within this process selected volunteers are engaging with testing and evaluation of this new tool.

How does someone access Scoutbook Lite?
The process to access Scoutbook Lite, once it is available, has not been finalized at this time. More information and communication will be shared about this via Workplace, Bryan on Scouting Blog, and the Scout Executive Council Packet when this online tool is available.

**What date will Internet Advancement portal be closed?**

This will happen after the release of Scoutbook Lite, so that units will always have a venue for submitting advancement records online.

**Is there a council information packet that can be used to communicate with volunteers on the website and in trainings other than what was previously listed on the Bryan on Scouting blog?**


Additional communications materials are being explored to help with this. Scoutbook Lite is being created with a simple user interface that volunteers (and those promoting this online tool) will find easy to understand and use.

**Is Scoutbook Lite optimized for desktop and mobile?**

We've all heard "mobile first" but Scoutbook Lite is even better. Professional user experience designers have worked hard to optimize your user experience for both a big desktop display and mobile tablets and smart phones.

**What other features can we expect to see in the future on Scoutbook Lite?**

Replacing Internet Advancement is just the first release of Scoutbook Lite. In the future, you will also experience features that track Service Hours, Hiking Logs, and Camping Logs.

The Great Alaska Council Advancement Committee will provide more information as it arrives from National. We will disburse this information through the Council Trail Talk, Face...
Cub Scouts

May Theme: Friendly Pack Meeting Plan

Treasure Hunters
A Scout is friendly. How does "Treasure Hunters" relate to this point of the Scout Law? This treasure hunt is more about the journey than the prize. As you make your way through the adventures, you will find that the treasure isn't gold, jewels, or riches, but the friends you make along the way!

Click Here to Download the Pack Meeting Plan

Anchor Town Drags
The official District race for Denali and Eklutna is calling you! The top 3 racers from each Den in your Pack are welcome!

Date: May 12, 2018
Location: Northway Mall
Check-in begins at 9 AM and the races at 10 AM.

Click Here to Register

Unit Sync Activation Update
As we migrate Scoutbook to the BSA's advancement database of record, all Scouts with a current member ID and are in an active

Scoutbook
unit subscription, will need to be in the advancement sync. If your unit does not activate the sync, once your current unit subscription expires you will not be able to renew until the sync steps have been completed. Until then, you will be able to complete but not approve advancements for Scouts without a current BSA membership ID.

In the near future, advancements for Scouts with valid member IDs in Scoutbook and who are not in the sync will be brought over from ScoutNET.

In addition, on June 1, 2018, any trial subscriptions that have not had any activity within the last 30 days will be closed and advancement data associated will be cleared out. If you wish to extend your trial, please contact Scoutbook.support@scouting.org.

If you would like your unit activated for the sync, and are having difficulties activating, please send an email to: Scoutbook.support@scouting.org. If a unit Key 3 member sends the email and requests the unit be activated for the sync, Member Care will turn the youth advancement sync on for that unit. Any Scouts with valid member id's will be activated and included in the sync.

Questions? Contact Kris Stoehner, Council Advancement Chair

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**Boy Scouts and Venturing**

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**Merit Badge: Scoutbook versus Blue Cards**

Technology is a great thing but sometimes what we think it will do for us is not exactly the way things turn out. Take for example the wonderful world of Scoutbook (the BSA-owned, record-keeping program). This extremely useful software tool was developed to help units, parents, and Scouts to monitor advancement progress.

Scoutbook offers numerous applications, however there are limitations and restrictions to what Scoutbook can and should do. Most importantly, Scoutbook is not an official advancement document nor is it a replacement for the "Application for Merit
In essence, though it is useful to use the Scoutbook platform for entering information, it does not replace the required signed Blue Card which must be retained by the Scout, the Scoutmaster, and the Merit Badge counselor.

More information on "Blue Cards" can be found in the Guide to Advancement, Section 7, or in the past issue of the Advancement News, July/August, 2017.

Click Here to Download the Full Article from Advancement News

Questions? Contact Kris Stoehner, Council Advancement Chair

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**National Youth Leadership Training**

National Youth Leadership Training is an exciting, action-packed program designed to provide youth members with leadership skills and experience they can use in their home troops and in other situations demanding leadership of self and others.

Date: August 6-11, 2018  
Cost: $275  
Click Here to Register  
*Don't forget to submit your participant questionnaire!

Attended NYLT before? Interested in being on staff?  
Contact Tim Hilbert, Course Director today!

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**Spring Camporee Orienteering**

Date: May 4-6, 2018  
Locations:  
- Camp Gorsuch - Overnight
Camping

- Mirror Lake Middle School - Orienteering activities

Cost: $15 per scout & $3 for adults

Click Here to Register
Download the Leader's Guide

Unit Sync Activation

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Questions? Contact Kris Stoehner, Council Advancement Chair

Order of the Arrow News

Ordeal *MOVED TO
Candidates: All candidates should arrive between 7:30pm-8pm. It is highly advised that you do not arrive any earlier than this. The weekend will end at 11am on Sunday Morning. During Breakfast you will be presented with your lodge insignia. We encourage your parents to come and join us for this recognition breakfast. You can register them when you register yourself. You should bring Medical Form (A&B) Full Uniform (Merit Badge Sash and Medals should stay home) you will NOT need your uniform until Saturday Afternoon, please come in clothes you do not mind getting dirty (Work Clothes and gloves). A sleeping bag, pad, tarp and tent, flashlight, water bottle, knife and personal toiletries.

Arrowmen: We ask that you arrive between 6pm-7pm, Those serving as Elangomats should arrive no later than 7pm. Please bring Medical Form (A&B) work clothes, gloves, full uniform, tent, tarp and personal toiletries. Cabins will NOT be available.

Date: May 18-20, 2018
Location: Camp Gorsuch
Click Here to Register

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

John Lubbers, Assistant Scout Executive
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

The weather is starting to warm and the days are longer. The big question - Did your unit get signed up for camp this summer? Cub Scout Packs - Are you going to Day Camp? Boy Scout Troops - Did your Troop get signed up for Summer Camp? How many Troops are going on some sort of High Adventure. There are two troops that I know of that are going to Philmont with-in the Council.

I encourage units to get to camp and have some sort of Program Plan for the Summer. It means a great deal to those that participate. A Tiger Cub Scout came to me one Summer after Day Camp and stated "I am not a baby anymore, I went to Day Camp" Units; work a program.

I have been invited to a couple Boy Scout Court of Honors and they have been very impressive. I would not mind getting invited to visit all of the units over a couple of years for their monthly meetings.

As always, if you have any needs please contact me and I will provide assistance.

Yours in Scouting,
**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

**Mathieu Frohlich, District Executive**
Email: mathieu.frohlich@scouting.org
Cell: 907-887-4245

**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

**Vacant..........Service Team Chair**

**Danyelle Schauer, Sr. District Executive**
Email: danyelle.schauer@lflmail.org
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

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