



## Great Alaska Council Top Stories

### Annual Recognition Dinner

Join us in celebrating the accomplishment of the 2018 class of Eagle Scouts and Summit Awardees, the newest recipients of the Silver Beaver and North Star Awards!

February 16th, 2018  
Anchorage Hilton Hotel  
6:00 PM



2018 Eagle Scouts attend at no cost!

[Click Here to register today!](#)

### Become a Friend of Scouting Today!

Support Scouting in Alaska by donating to Friends of Scouting! 100% of what is raised Alaska, stays in Alaska.

Are you ready to say "Scout Me In"?

[Donate Today](#)



## Scout Office Upcoming Closures



February 18, 2019 for President's Day

April 19, 2019 for Good Friday



### Council Leadership Summit: Calling All District Committee Members!

District Leadership is being called together across the Council. Join us for this event in person or call in. Lunch will be offered for \$25. Expect to review the District functions and plan for success in the coming year.

[Click Here to Register](#)

### Aquatic Supervision "Swimming and Water Rescue" Course

There will be six openings. Location will be at the UAA Pool during open swim from 7-9 PM. Pool fee is \$8. Pool sessions will be February 13, 20, and 27 with one oral quiz in the evening (date and location to be arranged).

Let's go swimming!  
Questions? Contact Scott Cameron at [scamerond.ak@gmail.com](mailto:scamerond.ak@gmail.com)



### Get Trained!

All leaders have an opportunity to take online training through [www.my.scouting.org](http://www.my.scouting.org)



*In person training is also available!*  
The following courses are coming up:  
Super Saturday: Features all Leader Specific Training for your Scouting role.

[Register Today](#)

Outdoor Leader Skills: This course is for Cub Scouts and Scouts, BSA leaders who would like to take their Scouts on an overnight camping trip.

[Register Today](#)

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## Cub Scouts

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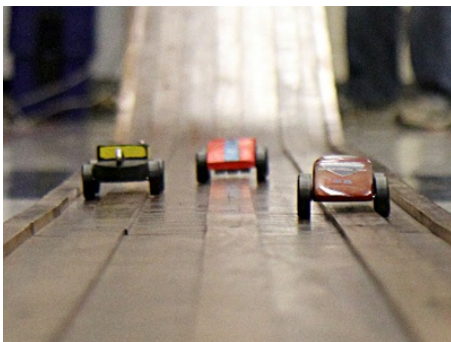
### **Bear Paw Winter Fun Day**

Bring the whole family for a wintertime fun extravaganza at the American Legion Post 35. Hot chocolate and cookies to keep up your energy for the fun!



Saturday February 2, 2019  
American Legion Post 35  
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)



### **District Pinewood Derbies**

Top cars from around the District will come together to compete in the Pinewood Derby race!

Bear Paw: April 20, 2019 at the LDS Wasilla Church

[Click Here to Register](#)

Eklutna: April 27, 2019 at the Northway Mall

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## Scouts BSA and Venturing

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### Southcentral Freezoree: Snow Sports Merit Badge

The theme of the February 8-10th, 2019 Freezoree is the merit badge "Winter Sports" at Hilltop!

Register today with your Scout Names and their choice of snow sport. After, complete the rental forms for each Scout needing to rent gear from Hilltop and send them to [Kris Stoeher](#).

[Click Here to Register Today!](#)

Questions: Please e-mail Kris Stoeher at [akspring3@gci.net](mailto:akspring3@gci.net)

*Snow Sports Merit Badge Counselors are still needed! Please contact Kris at the email above if you are interested.*

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### Okpik in the Snow

On the weekend of February 22-24, 2019, the Council will be offering an advanced Okpik-in-the-Snow course at the Independence Mine State Park. This course is intended for Scouters and older Scouts (16 and above), who are interested in developing and applying winter trekking skills. Most training will take place out-of-doors and requires an overnight stay. Instruction will include coursework focused on shelters (snow shelters and 4-season tent arrangements), sleeping and clothing systems, snow kitchens and lightweight cooking, and winter hazards and risks (including avalanche hazard recognition). Upon completion of the training, participants will receive an advanced Okpik training patch and a certificate.



[Click Here Register Now!](#)

## What to expect

- Cost is \$35 if registered early, \$45 for late registration.
- Recommended limit of 2 participants/troop. Scouters and youth 16 and older with winter camping experience.
- Full gear list and schedule provided two weeks before the event.
- Participants will arrive by 6 p.m. Friday with an option to check-in by 7:30 a.m. Saturday.
- Instruction will include limited lecture, most will take place out-of-doors throughout the day. Dress for cold and be prepared to travel on the snow with either snowshoes or backcountry skis.
- Two backpacking-style breakfasts, one lunch, and one dinner provided.
- Program ends Sunday morning



## Maritime Frostbite Challenge

Scouts from Southeast Alaska and Canada join together in the deep snow of the Fraser Pass in British Columbia to compete in snow games, including the infamous canoe sledding! Bring your snow shoes and hot chocolate!

\$20 registration fee includes event cost only; transportation is additional. The ferry to Skagway from Southeast should be purchased ASAP and reservations are the units' own responsibility.

This year's event cost includes the 2019 Frostbite patch, an overnight stay at the Skagway Rec Center, as well as the lunch hosted by the Order of the Arrow on Saturday. *\*while supplies last\**

All in attendance MUST have a BSA Health Form, Frostbite Permission Slip and a waiver to stay overnight at the Skagway Rec Center. No exceptions.

Dates: March 15-18, 2019

[Click Here to Register](#)

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# Order of the Arrow News

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## Renew your OA Dues!

**WEAR  
the  
FLAP,  
PAY  
the  
DUES**

With Charter Renewal time in full swing don't forget to renew your OA Dues! You can renew easily online at <https://www.scoutingalaska.org/oamembership> ! Some units collect OA dues as part of their Charter Renewal, if your unit does, please make sure to provide a list of names that the money is covering dues for.

Questions?  
Contact us at [nanuklodge@gmail.com](mailto:nanuklodge@gmail.com)

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## District Information

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### 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](mailto:gord@mtaonline.net)

**Russ Ingram, District Chair**

Email: [ingramwr@gmail.com](mailto:ingramwr@gmail.com)

**Danyelle Schauer, Sr. District Executive**

Email: [danyelle.schauer@lflmail.org](mailto:danyelle.schauer@lflmail.org)

Cell: 907-952-4647

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### 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](mailto:paul_ritz@yahoo.com)

**Brad Lewis, Sr. District Executive**

Email: [brad.lewis@scouting.org](mailto:brad.lewis@scouting.org)

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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**

Email: [scott.a.wesierski.civ@mail.mil](mailto:scott.a.wesierski.civ@mail.mil)

**John Woyte, District Commissioner**

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

**Samuel Giacalone, District Executive**

Email: [samuel.giacalone@scouting.org](mailto:samuel.giacalone@scouting.org)

Cell: 907-223-5111

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## **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?

**Chris Gianotti, District Chair**

**Fred Thorsteinson, District Commissioner**

Email: [fredthorsteinson@gci.net](mailto:fredthorsteinson@gci.net)

**Samuel Giacalone, District Executive**

Email: [samuel.giacalone@scouting.org](mailto:samuel.giacalone@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](mailto:doko@kpunet.net)

**Bryce McCandless, Program Director**

Email: [bryce.mccandless@scouting.org](mailto:bryce.mccandless@scouting.org)

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## 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?

**Russell Gross, District Commissioner**

Email: [rgross144@ameritech.net](mailto:rgross144@ameritech.net)

**Brad Lewis, Sr. District Executive**

Email: [brad.lewis@scouting.org](mailto:brad.lewis@scouting.org)

Cell: 717-405-2336

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## Scouting's Community Partners



[Alaska USA Foundation](#)

Supports Traveling Day Camp to rural areas of Alaska.

[Richard L and Diane M Block Foundation](#) for their support of the ScoutReach program.

[Wells Fargo](#) supports the Learning for Life and Exploring Program



Thank you to the following companies for helping transport popcorn to Alaska and our local communities:

- [TOTE Maritime](#)
- [Lynden Transport](#)
- [Alaska Marine Lines](#)

[Alaska Commercial Company](#) Helping to bring Traveling Day Camp to rural communities across Alaska

[BP Alaska](#) Contributing to the pilot STEM Scout program.

[NRA Foundation](#): Cowboy Action shooting program supporter.

Thank you for your support!

Great Alaska Council | 907-337-9547 | [alaskabsa@scouting.org](mailto:alaskabsa@scouting.org) | [scoutingalaska.org](http://scoutingalaska.org)

STAY CONNECTED:

