COUNCIL TOP STORIES

New Background Check Procedure

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is committed first and foremost to keeping youth safe. Part of that commitment includes continually updating our youth protection policies to help ensure we are always on the forefront of youth safety.

As you know, one of the BSA's many barriers to abuse is a mandatory criminal background check during the adult volunteer application process.

The BSA will also perform periodic rechecks of criminal backgrounds to support the continued safety of youth in our programs.

Official Notice to all Adult Volunteers- email from National
Boy Scouts of America
Membership Fee Change

For more than 100 years, Scouting has helped build future leaders by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun and adventure in the outdoors. At Boy Scouts of America, we are dedicated to developing leaders of character by preparing young men and women for life by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The timeless ideals of the Scout Law, such as being trustworthy, helpful, kind and brave, make up the foundation young people need to address and overcome challenges in their lives and the issues facing their generation. To ensure we have the resources to fulfill the promise of Scouting despite increasing operating costs, the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America has made the difficult but necessary decision to increase the annual membership fee effective January 1, 2020.

For more information on the changes- Membership Fees 2020

Great Alaska Council Program Redesign

The Great Alaska Council convened its most recent Polaris Project Committee to review the effectiveness of its program and to determine if these conditions warrant any change and to determine if our program is structured to best serve the youth of the Great Alaska Council today. The committee was tasked with finding a path forward that leveraged the strength of a smaller professional staff and solid volunteer partnership to guide our program for the foreseeable future. Rather than limiting our thinking to current organizational structure, the committee was given latitude to think outside the box by letting that which is best for our scouters, be our guide. After several meetings, the Polaris Project Committee recommended a fresh redesign of the current district structure.
COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

2019 Annual Auction
Get Your Tickets Today!

We will be hosting our exciting Annual Auction on Saturday, November 2, at the Downtown Anchorage Egan Center! Doors open at 5:00pm. To purchase your tickets or sponsor a table, visit: 2019 Annual Auction Registration

Want to help out? We are still accepting the following items:

**Unit Donations:**
Units can donate a personalized basket and will receive 30% of the highest bid on their basket donated.

**Personal Donations:**
Own your own business? Interested in donating items or services? Contact Development Director, Danyelle Schauer.

Click here to download the Unit Donations Flyer

Questions? Contact Danyelle Schauer, Development Director
Looking for a butter way to pay for camp fees? Look no further, we have kernels of wisdom to share with you!

**Great Alaska Council Bonus Prizes:**
Earn a 50% campership when you sell $2,500 in popcorn
Earn a 100% campership when you sell $3,700 in popcorn

[Click Here to Download the Trail's End Rewards Flyer](#)

**Scout Parents:**
Check out the [FAQ's Page](#) on the Trail's End website

**Important Popcorn Dates:**
November 8th- Popcorn Pick Up

For more information go to [www.scoutingalaska.org/popcorn](http://www.scoutingalaska.org/popcorn)

Questions? Contact [Danyelle Schauer](mailto:Danyelle.Schauer@gmail.com), Development Director

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**Scouting Into 2020**

*LDS Scouters Looking for Traditional Units, Look No Further!*

The Council will be holding an event for the LDS Scouters that are considering switching to traditional units. The event will help those interested Scouters find a traditional unit that is a great fit for their Scout(s).

**Date:** Thursday, November 14, 2019  
**Time:** 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
**Location:** Loussac Library, 4th floor Learning Commons

Questions? Contact [Greg Hobbs](mailto:Greg.Hobbs@gmail.com), VP of Program
ADVANCEMENT UPDATES

Planning for an Advancement?

Planning Summer Camp has concluded. School began in August or September. The year ahead for Scouts BSA members holds opportunities galore. Now is the time to assemble the Patrol Leader's Council and review the calendar for the upcoming year with an eye to building advancement into the program ahead. Check out the link below for more info!

[Advancement Plan]

Questions? Contact Kris Stoehner, Advancement Chair

Scoutbook Planning Aid-
Now Available for Den Leaders!

A valuable tool for support of Cub Scout den leaders is now available in Scoutbook! Available only on Scoutbook for registered den leaders, the new feature will provide everything those leaders need to start delivering the Cub Scout program.

[Scoutbook Planning Aid Information]

Questions? Contact, Kris Stoehner, Advancement Chair

Special Needs Scouts-
Advancement Question & Answer

One of the most frequently asked questions the National Special Needs and Disabilities Committee receives from leaders and parents is: "Where do I go for help with advancement for my special needs Scout?" The best answer may be right down the street at the Scout's school.

In fact, meeting with your Scout's school's special education or reading specialist teacher could be the best answer. These
teachers work daily with students who have disabilities and they know the needs of these individuals. Most Scouts who are in a special education program may have an Individualized Education Program (IEP). The IEP, a written document, is developed for each school child who is eligible for special education. It is created through a team effort and reviewed at least once a year. Parents have input into their child's plan and Scouting can be a part of that plan. Many school districts see the importance of what is being learned in classrooms that can be applied to the Scouting program and vice versa.

Special Needs Advancement Information

Questions? Contact Kris Stoehner, Advancement Chair

Youth Recognition- Service Project of the Year

Would you like to recognize valuable service of an exceptional nature by an Eagle Scout candidate to a religious institution, a school, community or other entity through completion of an Eagle Scout project.

Service Project of the Year

Questions? Contact Kris Stoehner, Council Advancement Chair

Adult Volunteer Awards

Our program is made stronger by the generous, hardworking, adult individuals that spend their free time making the Scouting program a priority. Below are some awards that can be used to recognize those outstanding volunteers.
UPCOMING COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

2019 NRA Range Safety Officer Course

Range Safety Officers supervise a shooting range. Participants who successfully complete this course are eligible to be certified by the National Rifle Association as RSOs.

This is not a shooting course and shooting knowledge and skills are not a requirement, although they might be helpful. The NRA requires that all RSOs must be 21 years of age or over. RSOs are not required to be NRA members.

Date: Saturday, November 9  
Time: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm  
Location: Camp Gorsuch  
Cost: $50.00

Questions or to Register- contact Ernie Mueller via email or at (907) 209-4618

2019 Wood Badge Reunion

Date: Saturday, November 23  
Time: 3:00 pm  
Location: Camp Gorsuch
For all those who have completed Wood Badge and those in the 2019 course who are working their tickets, are happily invited to the Great Alaska Council's 2019 Wood Badge Reunion. Come and celebrate 100 years of Wood Badge training! Please bring simple snacks/drinks to share (no kitchen use) and some cash to get your commemorative patch and tee shirt (only 100 will be available). Reconnect and have FUN!

Questions? Contact Curtiss Clifton, Council Commissioner

**University of Scouting**

**Date:** November 16, 2019  
**Time:** 9:00am to 4:00pm  
**Location:** Mirror Lake Middle School

What is University of Scouting? Only the largest training event in our Council each year! Class topics range from learning new games to lead with your Cub Scouts to planning a high adventure trek for your older Scouts. Parents, unit leaders, and even older Scouts are invited to attend and learn how to take their unit program to the next level!

Questions? Contact Lee Carpenter, Council Training Chair

**Order of the Arrow Fall Fellowship 2019**

**Dates:** October 25 - 27, 2019  
**Location:** Camp Gorsuch  
**Cost:** $25.00 per participant

Click Here to Register

Questions? Contact Brice Alexander, Lodge Advisor
Cub Scouts

Welcome to Cub Scouting!

We're glad you and your child have decided to join us for family fun and adventure! You probably have some questions... click the link below for answers to the five that are most frequently asked by new families.

Welcome to Cub Scouting- YouTube Video

Scouts BSA and Venturing

Scholarships for Scouts

Did you know that the Boy Scouts of America offers a multitude of scholarships for Scouts? Some local and some national, check out the links below for more info!

Great Alaska Council scholarship,
### Arnold & Lola Fish Scholarship

For a list of national scholarships, [Click Here](#)

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### Purchasing Eagle Scout Rank Items

The date of the Board of Review will be marked as the Eagle Scout rank earned date. However, please note, the Eagle Scout rank is not official until the National Scout Office has approved it.

Eagle rank items will not be able to be purchased until the certificate arrives from National.

Please allow up to two weeks after the Board of Review before purchasing any Eagle rank items. It is also highly recommended that you do not schedule the Court of Honor until receipt of the certificate.

Questions? Please contact [Brenda Bidwell](#), Council Registrar

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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](mailto:gord@mtaonline.net)

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

David Nelson, District Executive
Email: david.nelson@scouting.org
Cell: (907) 444-1731

**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

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

**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

**Rachel Carraway, District Commissioner**
Email: rmcarraway@gmail.com

**Samuel Giacalone, District Executive**
Email: samuel.giacalone@scouting.org
Cell: (907) 223-5111
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
Email: cgianotti@pndengineers.com

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

Samuel Giacalone, District Executive
Email: samuel.giacalone@scouting.org
Cell: (907) 223-5111

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

David Nelson, District Executive
Email: david.nelson@scouting.org
Cell: (907) 444-1731

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 Chair
Email: rgross144@ameritech.net

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

Scouting's Community Partners

**Alaska USA Foundation** supports Traveling Day Camp to rural areas of Alaska.

**Mat-Su Health Foundation** supports programs and camps within the Mat-Su valley.

**Major Marine Tours** generously donates our Seward Dinner Cruise.

**Rasmuson Foundation** generously helped to support our camp operations this summer!

**Richard L and Diane M Block Foundation** is a supporter of the ScoutReach 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

**NRA Foundation:** Cowboy Action shooting program supporter.
Thank you for your support!

Support Scouting

100% of the funds raised in Alaska - stay in Alaska. Help Scouting build the future leaders and community members of Alaska with your donation.

Donate Now

Great Alaska Council | 907-337-9547 | alaskabsa@scouting.org | scoutingalaska.org

STAY CONNECTED:

Great Alaska Council, Boy Scouts of America, 3117 Patterson St., Anchorage, AK 99504

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