-TRAIL TALK-
The Monthly Newsletter of the Great Alaska Council

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

2019 Annual Recognition Dinner
Get Your Tickets Today!

Come join us to recognize our 2019 Eagle Scouts and Silver Beaver Award Recipients!

Current and past recipients of the Silver Beaver Award along with the 2019 Eagle Scout Class are invited to join us for a reception beginning at 4:30pm. Doors will open at 5pm!

Date: Saturday, February 15, 2020
**Jack Links Unit Fundraiser**

The Council has signed on to host a Jack Links fundraiser for units seeking to help families bridge the gap to the newly announced membership fee increase and program fee.

Jack Link snack kits are sold for $15 each, the unit earning 30% profit back to fund their Scouting program.

[Sign Up for the Jack Links Fundraiser Here](#)

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

**ADVANCEMENT UPDATES**

**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 Brenda Bidwell, Council Registrar

UPCOMING COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Order of the Arrow Leadership Development

Lodge Leadership Development 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. **You must register for the Banquet separately.**

**Dates:** January 17-18, 2020  
**Location:** Camp Gorsuch  
**Cost:** $10 per Scouts, $10 per Adult, $150 per 2020 OA Annual Pass

[Click Here to Register](#) for the Leadership Development

**Date:** January 18, 2020  
**Location:** Camp Gorsuch  
**Cost:** $5 per Child (ages 6-11), $25 per Dinner Ticket

[Click Here to Register](#) for the Lodge Recognition Banquet
2020 South Central Freezoree

Welcome to the Great Alaska Klondike Derby! This will be a timed test of your outdoor skills, teamwork and leadership skills.

**Dates:** February 7-9, 2020  
**Location:** Camp Gorsuch  
**Cost:** $10 per Scout, ($15 after January 28, 2020), $3 for adults

[2020 Klondike Derby Leaders Guide](#)  
[Register Here](#)

Questions? Contact Ben Fish via email or at (907) 952-5090

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2020 Southeast Frostbite Challenge

**Event Dates:**  
Friday, March 20th to Sunday, March 22nd

More details to come!

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2020 OA Spring Fellowship

**Dates:** March 27-29, 2020  
**Time:** Starts at 7:00pm  
**Location:** Camp Gorsuch
What to bring:
Eat before arriving on Friday Evening. Copy of Medical Form part A&B - Required Sleeping Bag, Scout Uniform, OA Sash, Personal, Toiletries, Medication (if necessary), Money for Lodge Trading Post (we accept Debit/Credit Cards).

When does it end?:
We will wrap up Sunday morning after our Scout's Own Chapel service, pick up will be around 11am.

Cost:
The fee is $25. Included in your registration fee is food for the weekend, program materials and supplies.

Registration is expected to open in February!

Kayak Merit Badge Counselor Certification

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

Date for Anchorage

Wednesday, May 27, 5:30PM to 9:00PM at the Scout Office
Saturday May 30, 7:00AM to 5:00PM at Camp Gorsuch

Click Here to Register
Questions? Contact Scott Cameron, GAC Aquatics Chair
Cub Scouts

CUBCAST

The BSA Podcasts have tons of tips for making your Pack or Troop the best it can be! Take a listen to the November and December CubCast Podcasts to find out more information on topics you may have questions on!

January 2020 -
What is a COR?

Do you know who your COR is? Do you what a COR is? COR is the acronym for Chartered Organization Representative. If that still doesn't ring a bell, this episode is for you! On second thought - even if you do know, you might want to tune in, anyway, because joining us is podcast favorite and a COR himself, Dennis Kampa, along with unit leader Wadene Bloms. Both are from the Rocky Mountain Council in Pueblo Colorado. Let's start 2020 with getting to know your COR.

Listen Here

6 Easy Steps to Planning the Ultimate Pinewood Derby

From Bryan on Scouting:
The Pinewood Derby can seem like a maze of tasks that make up a million-piece, very complicated puzzle, but it is time to simplify things a bit and make this all about fun for everyone. These steps should guarantee that you throw a successful and well-run race day event, whether it's your pack's first time or 50th.

Read the Full Article Here

Don't forget your local Anchorage Scout Shop is fully stocked with everything you need for Pinewood Derby!
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!

Arnold & Lola Fish Scholarship - GAC

Click Here for National Scholarships

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

District Information

Staff Contact
Polaris Project
Redesign of Great Alaska Council District Structure

After several meetings, the Polaris Project Committee recommended a fresh redesign of the current district structure. The plan was shared with the Executive Committee at its September 18, 2019 meeting. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to forward the recommendation to the GAC Board of Directors at their October 9, 2019 meeting. After considerable discussion, the GAC Board of Directors approved the recommendation to move forward with the proposed redesign set forth by the Polaris Project Committee. The Board also approved the date the plan would officially take effect; that being Saturday, February 15, 2020 at the annual Business Board of Directors meeting.

In this redesign, the organization will be program-centric, that is, rather than using geographical lines which created districts, the lines will be drawn by program elements and called Teams (the Family Cub Scouting Team and the Scouting BSA Team). This provides an exciting opportunity to focus on key programs for growth with all current volunteer talent. The one exception will be the Southeast Alaska districts (Maritime and Totem) will merge into
one traditional district under a new name of their choosing. The new Southeast Alaska District may ultimately transition to the Team model at a later date (allowing time to study options for full engagement of our Southeast Alaskan Scouters). The attached organizational chart provides the detail envisioned by the Polaris Project.

Scouting's Community Partners

**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**

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.