



**SEPTEMBER 2025 Northampton District Newsbrief**

# Northampton District

**SCOUTING AMERICA, MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL**



## **BRIEFLY...**

## **IT'S COOL! GET OUTSIDE!!**

Summer will be over soon. It's a great time to get outdoors and do something! Go camping. Go for a hike. Go skating. Or just enjoy the beautiful weather. This is a good opportunity to share the love of outdoors with your non-Scouting friends. Who know? Maybe they'll want to join Scouting, just to keep the fun times coming.

### **The Six Essentials Cub Adventure Quest**

September 27, 2025 at Camp Olympic Park, 3120 South Cedar Crest Blvd, Emmaus PA 18049

Rain or shine!

Animal presentations, games, walking trails!

\$9 to sign up! (\$5 late fee will occur after September 16th at 11:59pm)

Bring a non-Scouting friend for free!

<https://scoutingevent.com/502-99085>

### **Cub Skateaway Night**

Get ready to roll! Cub Scouts, families, and friends are invited to join us for an afternoon of skating fun at Skateaway's Saturday Afternoon Skate (All Ages).

Date: Saturday, September 20th

Time: 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: Bethlehem Skateaway — 4500 Easton Ave, Bethlehem, PA 18020

Admission & Rentals:

\$13 per person (includes regular skate rental)

Important Information from Skateaway:

Waivers are required for everyone entering the building (skating or not).

Children under 18 must have a parent/guardian fill out and sign their waiver.

More info at: <https://scoutingevent.com/502-cubskatenight>



The Northampton District is a geographical area located in Northampton county which serves the youth of Bethlehem, Bangor, Chapman, Easton, Freemansburg, Glendon, Hellertown, Nazareth, North Catasauqua, Northampton, Pen Argyl, Portland, Roseto, Stockertown, Tatamy, Walnutport, West Easton, Wilson, Wind Gap, and all areas between.

## NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT LINKS

Northampton District Home Page on Council Website:

<https://minsitrails.org/northampton-district/>

Northampton District Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthamptonDistrict/>

Trail to Eagle Resources:

<https://minsitrails.org/the-trail-to-eagle-resources/>

Northampton District school policies (for recruiting Scouts):

<https://minsitrails.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/School-policies.docx>

Cub Scout Go and See Guide for Packs, Dens, & Families:

<https://minsitrails.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Go-and-See-Guide-2024-VI.pdf>

Current district newsletter (permalink):

[http://www.minsi-northampton.com/newsletters/current\\_newsletter.php](http://www.minsi-northampton.com/newsletters/current_newsletter.php)

District newsletter archive (permalink):

[http://www.minsi-northampton.com/newsletters/newsletter\\_archive.htm](http://www.minsi-northampton.com/newsletters/newsletter_archive.htm)

Minsi Trails Council Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/minsitrailsbsa>

## IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP\*: 2025 NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT & OTHER ACTIVITIES

**SEPTEMBER 19 to 21** - Wood Badge Adult Leadership Training, weekend 1

**SEPTEMBER 20** - Cub Skateaway Night

**SEPTEMBER 27** - The Six Essentials Cub Adventure Quest

**OCTOBER 1** - Northampton District Committee meeting

**OCTOBER 3 to 5** - OA OctoberFest Weekend

**OCTOBER 8** - Northampton District Roundtable, TBD, 7:00 PM

**OCTOBER 10 to 12** - Cub Fall Family Camp

**OCTOBER 18 to 19** - Wood Badge Adult Leadership Training, weekend 2

**OCTOBER 24 to 26** - Minsi Trails Council Fall Camporee - Highland Games

*\*dates are tentative, check council calendar to verify*

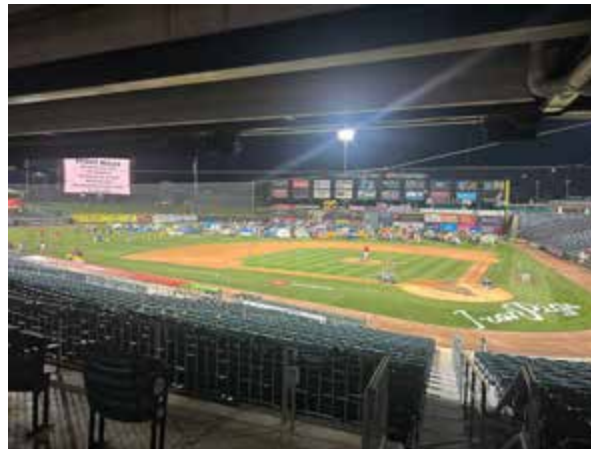
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## ***Patriots Day Flag Retirement - Hanover Township September 11, 2025***



## ***Iron Pigs Scout Night - Coca-Cola Park, Allentown, PA August 8, 2025***



## ***Pack 33 CPR Instruction - Bath, PA***





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***Northampton District Roundtable - St. Luke's Hospital, Anderson Campus  
September 10, 2025***



## **NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT CHAIR**

Hello Northampton District Scouters,

Fall recruiting season is upon us, and I hope you all are taking advantage of the many opportunities to coordinate joining nights and school flyers to help in that effort. The council also has some equipment available that could help make these events enjoyable for the scouts. Please feel free to share any questions you may have. Thank you.

I wanted to take a moment and address the upcoming membership fee beginning for the year 2026. Unfortunately, our family Friends of Scouting (FOS) contributions have declined to a level that made this action necessary. Overall, with the decline in the number of scouts and subsequent scout families, contributions have dropped to a level where it is affecting our council budgets. As an offset to the fees, as stated in letters that were sent out, Minsi Trails is still offering the Camp Minsi summer camp discount to council Scouts. In addition, certain district and council events will no longer carry an activity fee. These events will be clearly defined in the coming months. In cases where there are financial hardships, please know that our council will make accommodations as needed. This was a hard decision to make, but in light of the reduced financial support, it was necessary. Even with these new fees, in my mind, scouting is still the best activity for our youth.

Yours in Scouting,

Mike Caffrey  
Northampton District Chair

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## **Membership News**

### **New Recharter Fee**

The council board has approved a \$65 renewal fee. All Scouts with an anniversary date of December 2025 and beyond will be charged a \$65 Council fee to renew their membership. This is in addition to the \$85 National fee. This does not affect Scouts who have a renewal date prior to December this year. It also will not affect youth who join Scouting before December. Volunteers are not impacted by this fee. Council will stop the Friends of Scouting presentations at the end of 2025. Donations are always welcome.

### **Recharter Reminder**

Units are asked to begin checking PA clearances and Youth Protection Training before we begin the recharter process. In addition, if you have volunteers who are changing positions, please make sure you make the changes before recharter. It can be completed via Scoutbook by your unit Chartered Organization Representative or their designated representative.

### **BeAScout Pin**

Units, please review your BeAScout pin to make sure that the information is up to date. Verify contact information, meeting location, day, and times that you meet. ***Make sure your pin is turned on.***

### **BeAScout Leads**

Units, when you receive an email through BeAScout please reach out to the family and address any questions they may have. Invite them to a meeting so they can see your unit at work and meet the Scouts and leaders. We ask that you make a note on the invitation to let us know that the family has been contacted and the results of the contact. These leads are an excellent opportunity to grow your unit.

### **Fall Recruitment**

Units planning to recruit this fall, make sure you check out the Minsi Trail Council website under units & leader resources/membership (<https://www.minsitrails.org/membership>). Complete the form regarding your unit's plans for recruiting, including your joining night date(s). If you would like to reserve the gaga pit, the Lego derby track, or the rain gutter regatta make sure you sign up for them. *Note:* Only public schools are listed for open houses. If you plan on recruiting at other schools or locations, please let us know.

### **Six Essentials of Cub Scouting**

This event is open to all Cubs and their friends. It is a great opportunity for Scouts to bring a friend so they can see what Scouting is about. This is an advancement-based day for Cub Scouts. Sign up via the Council website. The event is September 27<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am to 12:00 noon. \$9 per Scout; a patch is included. If you have any questions, please contact John Yackabonis at council at [john.yackabonis@scouting.org](mailto:john.yackabonis@scouting.org). See the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter for more details.

### **Scouts BSA Interpreter Strip**

With fall comes back to school. Scouts taking a foreign language, this is an excellent opportunity to earn your Interpreter strip. Adults and Scouts BSA are eligible for this strip. Below are the requirements. Thank you, Troop 302, for reminding us.

#### **Overview**

To signify that a youth or adult member speaks a foreign language (one other than English)

French; German; Spanish; signing; Dutch; Italian; Portuguese; Russian; Cantonese (Chinese); Greek; Japanese; Simplified Mandarin (Chinese); Traditional Mandarin (Chinese); Vietnamese;; American Sign Language; Hebrew; Morse Code.

#### **Who Can Earn This Award?**

Any member who speaks a specific foreign language; demonstrate knowledge by carrying on a five-minute conversation in this language, translating a two-minute speech or address, and writing a letter in the language (does not apply for sign language); or, translating 200 words from the written word.

#### **Requirements**

Youth and adults may wear this strip if they show their knowledge of a foreign language or sign language by:

1. Carrying on a five-minute conversation in this language.
2. Translating a two-minute speech or address.
3. Writing a letter in the language (does not apply for sign language).
4. Translating 200 words from the written word.

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDERS**

Beginning August 1st, Scouting America will start sending text message reminders to members about upcoming membership renewals.

#### **Here's what to expect:**

Texts will be sent 45 days before your membership expires

A sample reminder is included so you'll recognize it when it arrives

These messages are designed to help you stay current; no missed deadlines!

#### **Important Update for Parents/Guardians in Scoutbook Plus**

If you're a parent or guardian not currently connected to your child in Akela (the national membership system), you will begin seeing warning messages in Scoutbook Plus.

#### **Why it matters:**

These connections must be validated by December 31, 2025

If not updated, your access will be limited, and you may not be able to complete registrations or renewals

#### **What to do:**

A pop-up message will provide step-by-step instructions to validate your relationship.

This information is also being communicated by email; keep an eye on your inbox.





## **SCOUTING MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

### ***Become a Mentor – Make a Lasting Impact!***

Are you a seasoned scout leader with wisdom to share? Join our Scouting Mentorship Program and help guide new leaders on their journey. Your experience can make all the difference in building confident, capable, and inspired leaders for tomorrow.

Flexible time commitment

Monthly check-ins

Resources and support provided

Recognition for your service

Sign up today and be the mentor you once needed!

<https://forms.office.com/r/T6VVqGht9u>

## **Minsi Trails Flashlight Award**

Shine the Spotlight: “Do Your Best” with the Flashlight Award!

Every day across Minsi Trails Council, incredible volunteers go above and beyond to make Scouting happen. Now it’s time to recognize their Good Turns and helpful actions in a special way!

### **Who inspires you?**

Is there a leader who always goes the extra mile? A volunteer who steps up without being asked? Someone who truly lives the Scout Oath and Law? Let’s shine a light on them with the Flashlight Award!

### **It’s simple:**

Take just a minute to fill out a short form and nominate a Scouter who deserves a little extra recognition. This is a Council-wide, ongoing program and there’s no limit to how many amazing people you can nominate!

### **Award Recipients will receive:**

A Certificate of Appreciation from Minsi Trails Council

Recognition in Council and District e-publications

A shout-out on social media

And most importantly, the gratitude of our Scouting family!

### **Nominate someone today:**

<https://247scouting.com/forms/502-FlashlightAward>

Let’s keep the Scouting spirit shining bright, one flashlight at a time!

## **Cub Scout Fall Family Camp**

This is the largest Cub Scouting event of the year! Camp overnight for the weekend as a PACK or DEN or as a FAMILY or come up just for the day on Saturday....either way please register! Everyone is welcome to attend for the weekend or Saturday only. Activities include BB, Archery, Hay Rides, Heritage Committee Collection, hikes, fishing and more!

If you are a new Scout who just joined, you are welcome to attend Saturday for the day for free. If you are a new scout and will be staying for the entire weekend with your new pack, all fees would apply and should be included in the Pack registration. If you are an existing Scout, simply the fee applies for weekend or Saturday only.

**Overnight/Day Youth Fee:** \$12 (youth 3 years of age to 12). Camp Site/Program Supplies/Patch included in fee)

### ***Adults are free***

All Saturday program activities are come and go as you please; your pace and timeline.

Register here <https://www.scoutingevent.com/502-FamilyCamp>



## **Minsi Trails Council Historical Trails**

### ***Explore the Past with Minsi Trails Historic Hikes!***

The Minsi Trails Council Activities Committee is excited to announce a refresh of the Historic Trails Program! Originally launched in 1969 and updated in the 1990s, this program features 10 unique hikes that guide Scouts through the rich history of our region, from pre-colonial landscapes to bustling industrial centers.

Each newly updated booklet includes:

- Revised routes for safe hiking
- New photographs
- Links to additional online resources

Booklets are available in both online and print-friendly formats at:

<https://www.minsitrails.org/historictrails>

### **Earn Awards Along the Way!**

Scouts earn a rocker patch for each hike completed and after five hikes, they qualify for the Historic Trails Medal, available now at the Minsi Trails Scout Shop.

Questions? Contact us at: [historictrails@minsitrails.org](mailto:historictrails@minsitrails.org)

Lace up, learn something new, and hit the trail!

*Patti Davis*

*Northampton District Membership Chair*



# THE SIX ESSENTIALS CUB ADVENTURE QUEST



**CUB SCOUTS DAY EVENT**  
**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2025**  
**9:30AM - 12:00PM**



## Activities

- Animal Presentations
- Walking Trails
- Six Essentials Activity
- Interact with a model camp site
- Scout stations, games and activities



## What to Bring;

- Backpack with six essentials inside; *small First Aid kit, water, flashlight, snack, sunscreen, whistle*
- Wear closed toe shoes
- Wear Scout themed activity shirt.

**Earn a few  
Rank Req.**

**For Tigers to  
Webelos  
Cub Scouts**

**Registration; \$9.00 per scout. Adult Leaders are free.**

- Scouts may Bring a Friend
- Rain or Shine
- No refunds will be given for cancellations made 14 days prior to the event date.
- Two adult registered leaders must attend with their Pack.
- Individual Scouts may register
- Patch Included with *paid* registration.

Contact:  
ssalvo1922@gmail.com

## Northampton County District July 2025 Eagle Scouts

Our young men and women work through the ranks in Scouting with busy schedules-sports, school, church, and more. These scouts still found time to complete all the requirements and achieve their goal of becoming an Eagle Scout. All our Eagle Scouts will set the bar higher as they continue in their life. We wish them all the best in their future.

*Jim Daley, Northampton District Advancement Chair and Eagle Chair*



8/4/2025	Matthew M.	Troop 29
8/18/2025	Daniel D.	Troop 36
8/25/2025	Nicholas I.	Troop 74





### ***Scouting through the ages...***



**Cub Scouts** is a youth program for boys and girls in kindergarten through fifth grade. It focuses on building character, developing leadership skills, promoting good citizenship, and encouraging personal fitness—all through fun, hands-on activities. Children participate in small groups called dens, working on age-appropriate adventures that include outdoor activities, crafts, games, and community service. The program is family-friendly and designed to help young kids grow into responsible, confident individuals.

**Scouts BSA** is a program for youth ages 11 to 17, open to both boys and girls in separate troops. It builds on the foundation of Cub Scouts and focuses on developing leadership, outdoor skills, citizenship, and personal responsibility. Scouts plan their own activities, go camping, explore a variety of skills and interests through merit badges, and work toward rank advancement. The program emphasizes youth-led experiences, teamwork, and community involvement.



**Sea Scouts** is a co-ed program for youth ages 14 to 21 who are passionate about water-based adventures and leadership. This program supplements or extends the Troop experience. Sea Scouts offers hands-on experiences in boating, water safety, seamanship, and any and all water-based adventures. Sea Scout units—called “ships”—operate on oceans, rivers, lakes, and bays across the country, providing opportunities to sail, scuba dive, navigate, kayak, whitewater raft and use SUPs.. Beyond the water, the program fosters citizenship, teamwork, and personal growth through outdoor activities, service projects, and leadership training.

**Venturing** is a co-ed youth development program for young people ages 14 to 20. This program supplements or extends the Troop experience. Venturing is designed to foster adventure, leadership, personal growth, and service through high-energy outdoor activities and real-world challenges. Venturing crews—small groups led by youth with adult advisors—plan and execute their own experiences, which can include hiking, rock climbing, community service, and more. The program follows the ALPS model: *Adventure, Leadership, Personal Growth, and Service*, helping teens build confidence, character, and lifelong skills.



**LEARN about local scouting at: [ScoutingMinsiTrails.org](https://ScoutingMinsiTrails.org)**





## Don't Crash Out ...



**...Paddle It Out !**

**Kayaking sessions** with Sea Scout Ship 940 are beginning now on Stillwater Lake at Camp Minsi Aquatics. The initial sessions are:

- Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, from 1 – 4 pm
- Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, from 1 – 4 pm

Our kayak program starts on flatwater (Stillwater Lake) in the Fall, overboard work in the winter (in a pool), and easy river trips late spring and early summer.

**Sailing sessions** are also scheduled on Stillwater Lake at Camp Minsi Aquatics. sessions are:

- Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, from 1 – 4 pm
- Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, from 1 – 4 pm

**Visiting Scouts** will need to be accompanied by a parent. A current year swim test is required to be in a boat.

**Learn about us.** Sea Scout Ship 940 (coed ages 14-20) and our companion group, Maritime Explorer Club 940 (coed ages 10-14) supplement or extend the Scout Troop experience..

[www.Ship940.org](http://www.Ship940.org)



[www.Club940.org](http://www.Club940.org)

## SHIP 940 Ports-of Call for Fall / Winter 2025

**SEPTEMBER 14**, Sunday, 1 to 4 pm, **Stillwater Lake Sailing & Kayaking @ Camp Minsi.** Sunfish and kayaks are available for use. New kayaking sessions start. Small Boat Sailing and Kayaking / Whitewater (MBs) class will be available if there is interest.

**SEPTEMBER 21**, Sunday, 1 to 4 pm, **Stillwater Lake Sailing & Kayaking @ Camp Minsi.** Sunfish and kayaks are available for use. New kayaking sessions continue. Small Boat Sailing and Kayaking / Whitewater (MBs) class will be available if there is interest.

**OCTOBER 5**, Sunday, 1- to 4 or 5 pm **Lower Lehigh River Kayak Trip**

- Put-in at Jim Thorpe train station. Takeout at Bowmanstown Boat Launch at PA 895
- Several challenging rapids in the beginning and end.
- This will satisfy the whitewater MB trip requirement. (Bring signed blue cards.)
- **RESTRICTED.** Open only to existing Ship / Club members with kayak training.

**NOVEMBER 2**, **Monthly meetings** begin every first Sunday of the month at 7pm.

- Zoom or in person TBD.

**JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2026**, **Ice Boat Sailing**

- Stillwater Lake at Camp Minsi Aquatics, based on safe (7"+) ice conditions



<https://www.minsitrails.org/2025-minsi-trails-council-golf-classic>



<https://www.minsitrails.org/2025-minsi-trails-council-sporting-clays>



## **The Takhone Corner**



### ***OctoberFest Weekend is coming up, October 3 to 5.***

A FUN weekend at camp, exclusive only to Order of the Arrow members  
Join other members for the OctoberFest Fellowship Weekend for all Lodge members!  
Fun, fellowship, and great food!

- All current Ordeal members (except those new from this year), become a Brotherhood member (2nd Degree/Honor) by following these easy requirements (completed at the Weekend): [www.witauchsoman.org/brotherhood](http://www.witauchsoman.org/brotherhood)
- OA Lodge welcome weekend for new Ordeal Members and all Members!
- No service all weekend – FUN ACTIVITIES!!
- Great food and plenty of it!
- Fun outdoor & indoor games and competitions
- Patch Trading – bring your patches to trade or show off!
- W-Mart (OA Lodge Store) open and year-end CLEARANCE SALE
- Lodge/Chapter/Committee information, planning, and involvement – GET INVOLVED!
- Leadership development training session (earn a special Lodge Trained patch)
- Chapter meeting with your local Chapter members
- Special Vigil Honor members' reunion/fellowship and welcome new Vigils
- Church – We offer both a Catholic Mass and Interfaith Service Saturday Night. Questions have been raised about Scouts having to leave on Saturday night to make church on Sunday, we do provide services at the weekend so there is no need to leave early.

Register at <https://scoutingevent.com/502-OAOctoberFestWeekend2025>

Registration deadline is September 26, 2025.