



# SEPTEMBER 2023 Northampton District Newsletter

## Northampton District

**MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL, BSA**



### NEWSLETTER... A NEW SCOUT YEAR!!!

As the *leaves begin to change* and a sense of excitement fills the air, we stand at the threshold of a brand-new Scout year. To all the young adventurers and their families, to the dedicated leaders and mentors who guide them, this is your moment to shine brighter than ever before. Help by submitting articles and/or photos of your unit's activities or events for the District newsletter to Bernie Suess at [newsletter@minsi-northampton.com](mailto:newsletter@minsi-northampton.com). Submit your information by the first day of each month for the following month's newsletter.

### 2023 DATES

Roundtable 7:00pm	as scheduled (council-wide)
OA Chapter 7:00pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday
District Committee 7:00pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday
Eagle Board & Project Review	[as needed]
District Commissioners	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday
OA Family Banquet	January 7 [13]
Council Recognition Dinner	January 27 [10]
Scout Sunday	February 12
Icifest	February 18 [2]
Klondike Derby	February 25 [4]
University of Scouting	March 11 [8]
LV Phantoms Game	March 12 [18]
District Pinewood Derby	March 18 [17]
Catholic Scout Weekend	April 22-23 [5]
Trexler SR Beaver Weekend	May 5-7 [3]
Council Pinewood Derby	May 13 [11]
Camp Minsi Beaver Weekend	May 19-21 [2]
Northampton District Picnic	May 24 [6]
Spring OA Weekend	June 2-4 [3]
Iron Pigs Scout Night	June 30 [20]
National Jamboree	July 19-28 [15]
Council Fishing Derby	July 22 [3]
District Day Camp	August 4-6 [6]
Iron Pigs Scout Night	August 4 [20]
National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)	August 6-12 [4]
Mule Madness	August 19 [21]
Becky's Drive-in	September 8 [16]
Fall OA Weekend	September 8-10 [2]
BASD Recruiting Event	September 16 [12]
OA OctoberFest Weekend	October 6-8 [TBA]
Cub Fall Family Weekend	October 13-15 [2]
Fall Camporee (with Lehigh District)	October 20-22 [2]
Scouting for Food	November 4 and 11
Wood Badge Reunion Dinner	November 5 [10]
District Recharter	November 9 [1]

**PLEASE NOTE:** All dates and locations are tentative and should be confirmed online or at registration.

### MEETING LOCATION KEY

*Some meetings may be online or hybrid (link sent via email or posted on calendar)*

- [1] Minsi Trails Council Office
- [2] Camp Minsi
- [3] Trexler Scout Reservation
- [4] Akelaland
- [5] Settler's Camp
- [6] Louise Moore Park, 151 Country Club Rd, Easton, PA 18045
- [7] Jordan Lutheran Church, 5103 Snowdrift Rd, Orefield, PA
- [8] Northampton Community College
- [9] Wind Gap Fire Company Social Hall, 111 North Broadway, Wind Gap
- [10] East Hills Moravian Church, 1830 Butztown Rd, Bethlehem
- [11] Kelly Auto, Lehigh St., Allentown
- [12] St. Anne Church, 450 E Washington Ave, Bethlehem, PA 18017,
- [13] Stroudsmoor Inn, Stroudsburg, PA 18360
- [14] Wind Gap Park, 334 S Lehigh Ave, Wind Gap, PA 18091
- [15] Summit Bechtel Reserve, 2550 Jack Furst Dr, Glen Jean, WV 25846
- [16] Becky's Drive-in, 4845 Lehigh Dr, Walnutport, PA 18088-9597
- [17] Kelly Nissan 3830 Easton-Nazareth Highway, Easton
- [18] PPL Center
- [19] East Hills Middle School, Bethlehem
- [20] Coca-Cola Park, 1050 Ironpigs Way, Allentown, PA 18109
- [21] National Canal Museum, 2750 Hugh Moore Park Rd, Easton, PA

**NOTICE:** If you have a question regarding any date or activity, please contact the respective Chair listed on the District Committee Page.



# BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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:

<http://www.minsitrails.org/districts/northampton-district/60269>

Northampton District Facebook page:

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

Trail to Eagle Resources:

<http://www.minsitrails.org/eagle-rank/trail-to-eagle-resources/60185>

Northampton District school policies (for recruiting Scouts):

<https://www.minsitrails.org/document/2022-northampton-school-policies/210661>

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

<http://www.minsitrails.org/document/cubscoutgoandseeguidecouncil2021q3/207571>

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: 2023 NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

**SEPTEMBER 6** - Northampton District Committee meeting

**SEPTEMBER 8** - Becky's Drive In, Walnutport

**SEPTEMBER 8 to 10** - OA Fall Fellowship Weekend, Camp Minsi

**SEPTEMBER 16** - BASD Recruiting Event, St. Anne Church, Bethlehem

**SEPTEMBER 16** - Shankweiler's Drive-In Pack Movie Night and Campout, Orefield

**SEPTEMBER 19** - Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS) - Virtual Session

**SEPTEMBER 29 to 30** - Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS), Camp Minsi

**OCTOBER 4** - Northampton District Committee meeting

**OCTOBER 6 to 8** - OA Octoberfest Weekend, Camp Minsi

**OCTOBER 13 to 15** - Cub Scout Fall Family Weekend

**OCTOBER 20 to 22** - Fall Camporee with Lehigh District; Camp Minsi

## COUNCIL-WIDE ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

*Time and location(s) NCC, Bethlehem and Monroe Campuses and online (hybrid)*

DATE	MAIN TOPIC	CUB SCOUTS	SCOUTS, BSA	SCOUTBOOK
Sept. 13	Training opportunities for leaders the paperwork needed for both new parents and leaders	Winter activities ideas	Winter High Adventure opportunities	TBA

## NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT CHAIR

Hello Northampton District Scouters,

I hope this note finds you well and ready for a new year of Scouting. By now you are likely pulling together your plans for this upcoming season of Scouting and we want to highlight some dates for District events for you to consider adding to your planning calendar. Our goal on the District Committee is to help units. This can be in the form of Commissioner Support, Recruiting efforts, Rechartering, etc... But we also want to ensure that units have access to events for Scouts so you do not have to do all the planning. In some cases we need support of Units to make the event happen, but in most cases what we need are Scouts to attend. I strongly encourage you to please join our District events and make them part of your calendar. Please encourage sign ups and the earlier the better. More information is available on the Minsi Trails Website. Looking forward to seeing you at some of the events this year. YIS,

Date	Event / Location	Time
9/8/2023	Becky's Drive In Overnight Camping	5:00 PM
10/13-10/15/23	Cub Family Camping; Camp Minsi	6:00 PM
10/20-10/22/23	Fall Camporee with Lehigh District; Camp Minsi	5:00 PM
12/2/2023	Rechartering Day Northampton District; Location TBD	8:00 AM
1/13/2023	Winter Fun Fest; Camp Minsi	9:00 AM
2/24/2024	Northampton Klondike Derby; Camp Minsi	TBD
3/16/2024	Cub District Pinewood Derby; TBD	TBD
5/4/2024	District Cub & Scout Bike Hike; TBD	TBD
5/22/2024	District Picnic/Louise Moore Park	6:00

Mike Caffrey  
Northampton District Chair

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**Hello Fellow Scouters,**

**Each year on 9/11, Hanover Township Northampton County conducts a Patriot Day ceremony as a remembrance. Included is a Flag Retirement ceremony that all local scouts are encouraged to attend and help fold flags then conduct them for retirement in burning barrels. The ceremony begins at 5:30 and we are asking scouts to please arrive in Class A uniform no later than 5:00 to assist in folding the flags appropriately. Hope to see you there on this solemn occasion.**

**Mike Caffrey  
Northampton District Chair**

**Please note recharter will NOT be on December 2nd. We are encouraging people to complete rechartering online. The in-person portion will be on November 9th at council offices on Postal Road. Please watch for an upcoming email for Rechartering sign-up. For further information please contact Patti Davis at [davispr91@outlook.com](mailto:davispr91@outlook.com) or if you have any questions. We will arrange a second night if needed.**

# Wood Badge Reunion Dinner

Sunday, November 5, 2023

Gathering Time: 3:00 pm

Dinner: 4:00 pm

East Hills Moravian Church  
1830 Butztown Rd, Bethlehem, PA 18017  
<https://goo.gl/maps/RdNhKwquH9K63MyTA>



Mark your calendars! The Wood Badge Reunion Dinner is scheduled for November 5, 2023, and the venue is East Hills Moravian Church in Bethlehem. We extend a warm invitation to all Wood Badgers, whether you've earned your beads, are currently working on your tickets, spouses and friends, or even those who are curious about future courses. This gathering holds the spirit of our Annual Wood Badge Reunion Dinner, and we encourage attendees to consider bringing someone along and possibly arranging carpooling for the event.

The Reunion promises excitement with both a silent auction and a (tentative) live auction. Expect a range of thrilling items that have been favorites in the past.

We kindly request contributions for the auctions, specifically Scouting items and valuable objects. To coordinate your donations, please reach out to Jon Slaton at 908-995-4663 by November 1, 2023. We aim to have all items at East Hills Moravian Church by 3:00 PM on the 5th, ready for the Reunion Auction. It's worth noting that all proceeds will contribute to the Wood Badge Fund.

Please register as soon as possible, but no later than October 31, 2023 so that we can get a count for food. Please consider including a donation to the Wood Badge fund, since it is needed to assist our own Wood Badge courses, its participants, other training needs, and awards.

Please check the Minsi Trails website for cancellation information at [www.minsitrails.org](http://www.minsitrails.org)

Mail to: Minsi Trails Council, PO Box 20624, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ dinners at \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the Wood Badge Reunion (\$30 if before 10/31; \$35 after)

Donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed towards the Wood Badge Fund. If you cannot participate, your donation is still needed and appreciated. Thank you.

Total Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please make checks payable to Minsi Trails Council, BSA

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's/Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

Council - if not Minsi Trails: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Food Restrictions? \_\_\_\_\_

Participant in 13-502-22? (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

Now for your convenience register and pay online at

<http://www.minsitrails.org/event/3006015>





## Membership News

### New Re-Charter Fees

As of August 1, 2023, all charter fees paid to National will increase. Scouts (participants from kindergarten through age 20) will be \$80 a year. Exploring youth and adults will be \$50 a year. Registered adult volunteers in unit and non-unit positions (such as district or council positions) will be \$60 a year. Merit Badge Counselors who are not affiliated with a unit or council will be \$25 a year. Joining fee (\$25) and Unit charter fee (\$100) will remain the same. All Scouts and adult leaders on your roster as of July 31, 2023, will carry an anniversary date of December 31 (the expiration date of your unit charter). According to council, units should collect your National charter fees for the youth and adults in your unit dues. The individual National charter fees will be paid during unit recharter in December as in the past.

Youth or adults who join on or after August 1, 2023 will pay National directly via the online application process. They will carry an anniversary date associated with the date they completed that process. **We recommend that you explain to prospective families that the National fees only cover the individuals' registration in the Scouting program and that costs incurred by each unit for such things as equipment, rank patches, belt loops, and merit badges, etc. are covered by the unit. Therefore, there will be an additional unit fee (dues) to cover these expenses.**

Should you have any questions please contact Mike Borgman at [Mike.Borgman@scouting.org](mailto:Mike.Borgman@scouting.org), Melissa Mohr at [melissa.mohr@scouting.org](mailto:melissa.mohr@scouting.org), or Patti Davis at [davispr91@outlook.com](mailto:davispr91@outlook.com).

### 72 Hour Rule

As you may be aware, the 72-hour rule expires on September 1, 2023. What does this mean for your unit?

**Scout BSA units only (Troops).** Any adult who attends an overnight activity will be required to be a registered adult. That can be as an Assistant Scoutmaster, a member of your unit committee, or an adult program participant. Cub Scout exceptions are listed below:

Volunteers who help at fundraisers, community service, and/or Eagle projects do not need to be registered. However there always needs to be at least 2 registered adults at these events. See details below:

The following is from the Guide to Safe Scouting under Youth Protections & Adult Leadership section (<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety>):

#### **Registration Requirements**

**The chartered organization representative, or in their absence the executive officer of the chartered organization, must approve the registration of the unit's adult leaders.**

Registration includes:

- Completion of application including criminal background check and mandatory Youth Protection training
- Volunteer Screening Database check

**Current Youth Protection training is required for leaders when renewing their registration or at unit charter renewal.**

**Adult program participants must register as adults and follow Youth Protection policies.**

#### **Adult Supervision**

(Effective September 1, 2023) **Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities, including all meetings. There must be a registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over must be present for any activity involving female youth or female adult program participants.**

## Membership News

Notwithstanding the minimum leader requirements, age and program-appropriate supervision must always be provided.

All adults staying overnight in connection with a Scouting activity must be currently registered as an adult volunteer or an adult program participant. Adult volunteers must register in the position(s) they are serving in. Registration as a merit badge counselor position does not meet this requirement. See FAQ (<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/yp-faqs/>) for list of approved adult registration fee required positions. *Limited exception below for Cub Scout overnight Programs.*

**Cub Scout Programs – Overnight Exception:** Cub Scout parents or legal guardians taking part in an overnight Cub Scout program with their own child or legal ward are not required to register as leaders. All adults must review the *“How to Protect your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent’s Guide”* that can be found in the front of each Cub Scout Handbook or online at <https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/parents-guides/>. In addition, the parent or legal guardian must be accompanied by a registered leader at any time they are with youth members other than their own child/ward. All other overnight adults must be currently registered in an adult fee required position.

Keep in mind that any adult who registers in a position will also need to provide all PA clearances in addition to the Youth Protection training as well as any requirements associated with your Charter Organization.

### Fall Recruiting

School has started and so does Scouting fall recruiting season. We are asking units to contact their local schools to see if they can set up a table at Open House, Meet the Teachers, PTA, etc. Our goal this year is to reach every school in our district and provide families with information about the Scouting program. Council will be happy to print flyers for your events, just provide them with your unit number, location, date and time of the event, and contact information as well as quantity needed. Please let us know when your joining night is scheduled and forward us a copy of your flyer so that we can post it on our district Facebook page. Council is currently arranging meetings with school superintendents and/or principals to obtain information regarding school policies for this year. If a school district limits the number of flyers we can distribute, we are asking that you coordinate with council so that we can merge all units information into one document for distribution.

Please contact either Mike Borgman at [mike.borgman@scouting.org](mailto:mike.borgman@scouting.org), Melissa Mohr at [melissa.mohr@scouting.org](mailto:melissa.mohr@scouting.org), or Patti Davis at [davispr91@outlook.com](mailto:davispr91@outlook.com) once you have set your joining night date(s).

### BeAScout Pin

**Attention all units:** please review your BeAScout pin to make sure that the information is up to date and active. Verify contact information, meeting location, and day and times you meet. Provide information about your unit. Remember the more information you provide the better.

BeAScout pins are an important part of Scouting. When you receive a lead, please reach out to the family. They have taken the time to contact you. Invite them to a meeting, explain the program to them. Once you have done so, please update that lead so we know someone has reached out and the status. Follow up with the family after your initial conversation.

### Recharter News

As we begin the fall season, we start the re-chartering process. We recommend that you begin reviewing your current charter now. The following are some steps to begin the process and be prepared.

Unit Key 3 (Cubmaster/Scoutmaster, Committee Chair, and Chartered Organization Representative) can review all registered adult leaders’ clearances (except PA15) and training status on [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org)

1. All adults must have current Youth Protection training that does not expire prior to 3/31/2024.
2. PA15 clearances - Per PA law, all existing volunteers must secure their new clearances prior to the earliest expiration date to continue their volunteer roles. These clearances are good for 5 years. The clearances include PA Child Abuse History clearance; PA State Police Criminal Record and either FBI Criminal History Background Check (PA resident less than 10 years) or Council PA

## Membership News

resident volunteer waiver (PA resident 10+ years). Information regarding these clearances can be found on the Minsi Trails website under resources or the PA website [www.keepkidssafe.pa.org](http://www.keepkidssafe.pa.org). We recommend that clearances that expire prior to 3/31/2024 be updated. Remember each unit is required to maintain a copy of these clearances as well as provide a copy to council (no photos please).

3. If your charter organization has additional volunteer requirements make sure they are also up to date.
4. Verify that all adults have completed their position training requirements. Information regarding what is required can be found on the Minsi Trails website under training/basic leader. We suggest that if adults complete online training they print a copy of the certificate. In the event the system glitches we will have a paper record and council will be able to update them manually.
5. Compare your 2023 charter with your current youth/adult roster. Make sure that addresses, phone numbers and emails are current as well as unit positions.

Taking these steps will minimize the time required to complete your 2024 charter. It may also alleviate the need for correcting errors come January.

### Unit Commissioners Needed

Volunteers are needed as Unit Commissioners. Contact District Commissioner Bill Brugger at [we.brugger@gmail.com](mailto:we.brugger@gmail.com) if you are interested. This is a great way to continue serving in Scouting after your daughter or son has aged out.

### Spanish Translator

Some of our school districts require that flyer be printed in both English and Spanish. If you or someone you know would be willing to volunteer to assist us in doing translations, please contact Mike Borgman at [mike.borgman@scouting.org](mailto:mike.borgman@scouting.org) or Melissa Mohr at [melissa.mohr@scouting.org](mailto:melissa.mohr@scouting.org). We would appreciate any help you can provide.

### Cub Scout packs can camp up to two consecutive nights

Effective Sept. 1, 2023, Cub Scout packs who are conducting their own overnight camping activities may now camp up to two consecutive nights.

This is a change from the earlier policy on pack unit-coordinated camping, which was previously limited to single overnight experiences.

The updated policy also applies to Webelos and Arrow of Light dens, who can now conduct campouts for up to two consecutive nights.

Here's what you need to know.

### What does unit-coordinated camping mean?

A unit-coordinated campout is one that is entirely planned and executed by the leaders and parents in a Cub Scout pack, and not by the unit's district or council. That means the pack or unit adults are solely responsible for organizing transportation and activities at the campout, and ensuring that all BSA rules are followed. This includes having at least one registered adult leader trained in Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation (BALOO) who oversees the planning and is in attendance for the pack campout. <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2018/03/28/what-is-baloo-a-quick-look-at-this-crucial-outdoor-training-for-cub-scout-leaders/>

## What is BALOO?

BALOO is a 1½-day course designed to be an introduction to the Cub Scout outdoor program. It consists of an online pre-requisite component in addition to an overnight hands-on event. Participants will learn BSA's Cub Scout-level camping policies along with the necessary tools to help units carry out a successful camping experience. While only one adult at minimum needs BALOO, it's a great idea to have multiple adults take it. The more adults who know BALOO, the better!

## What else do I need to do as I plan a unit-coordinated campout?

Make sure the location where you will be camping is approved by your local council. If you're camping at a popular park or public camping area, chances are it's already approved, but you should check with your local council to be sure.

## How do councils decide which locations are approved?

By using the Pack Overnight Campout Site Appraisal Form (available at [https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/430-90218-PackOvernightForm\\_Fillable.pdf](https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/430-90218-PackOvernightForm_Fillable.pdf)). Completion of this form helps your council ensure that the location has appropriate facilities for Cub Scout camping. Units are not allowed to do their own site appraisals. However, if you have a site in mind that is not on your council's list of approved sites, you can reach out to them and request an appraisal.

## What else do I need to know about Cub Scout camping?

Pack camping is a family-centric program. Cub Scout youth should attend the camping event with their parent(s) or guardian(s). Cub Scout youth may tent with a parent or guardian as outlined in Scouting's Barriers to Abuse (<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/scoutings-barriers-to-abuse/>).

Only Webelos and Arrow of Light dens may conduct den campouts, and those campouts can only include the Webelos or Arrow of Light youth. As with pack-coordinated campouts, the den must have a BALOO trained adult leader in attendance and all Youth Protection policies apply.

Webelos and Arrow of Light dens may participate and camp at a Scouts BSA troop unit campout; however, all Cub Scout camping and YPT requirements still apply, including having a BALOO-trained adult leader in attendance.

Council approval is required when units from different chartered organizations camp together, including when a den camps with a Scouts BSA troop.

## When does this change go into effect?

September 1, 2023, at which time the policy will be updated in the Guide to Safe Scouting (<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/>) and other official BSA resources.

## Palmer Township – Trick or Treat Trail

Looking for a fun way to celebrate Halloween in your community and promote Scouting at the same time? Then join Palmer Township's Trick or Treat Trail. See the flyer following this article for details.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

September 8 - Becky's drive-in campout. Register online (<https://www.minsitrails.org/event/2972189>) Pay at the gate.

September 16 - BASD Recruiting Event St. Anne Church, Bethlehem.

Leaders, please make sure you share these fun events with parents and let them know to register on our website. Thank you all!



## Trash for Cash

Remember, there are still some fundraising dates available for the cash for trash program at the Iron Pigs this summer. Remaining dates are first come first serve. Your troop earns \$75 and 8 free tickets to a future Iron Pigs game.

Scout units provide six Scouts and two adults for an Iron Pigs home game at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown. The Scouts will pass trash bags among the rows to collect trash. Scouts will collect trash in between innings from the start of the game to the beginning of the seventh inning.

Your group will enter the stadium 30 minutes prior to the game using the Club Entrance. Ask for the Operations Intern, who will provide further instructions. Below are tentative dates for September. Some may have been taken, so check for availability.

Please contact [John.Yackabonis@scouting.org](mailto:John.Yackabonis@scouting.org) to reserve a date.

**Friday 9/1 7:05 pm**

**Thursday 9/21 6:45 pm**

**Saturday 9/23 6:35 pm**

**Sunday 9/24 1:35 pm**



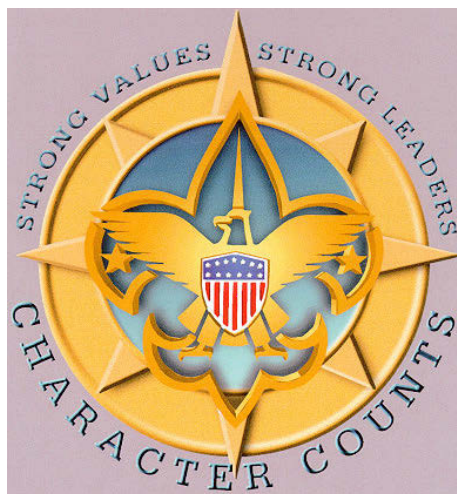
Looking for Palmer Township Businesses or Groups who would be interested in participating in Palmer Township's Second Annual Trick or Treat Trail!

If you are interested in hosting a booth and donating your time, creativity and of course some treats on the weekend of October 21st to create a safe, not so scary super fun Halloween event for the kids of Palmer Township.

You can contact us at [palmercommunitycenter@rcn.com](mailto:palmercommunitycenter@rcn.com).

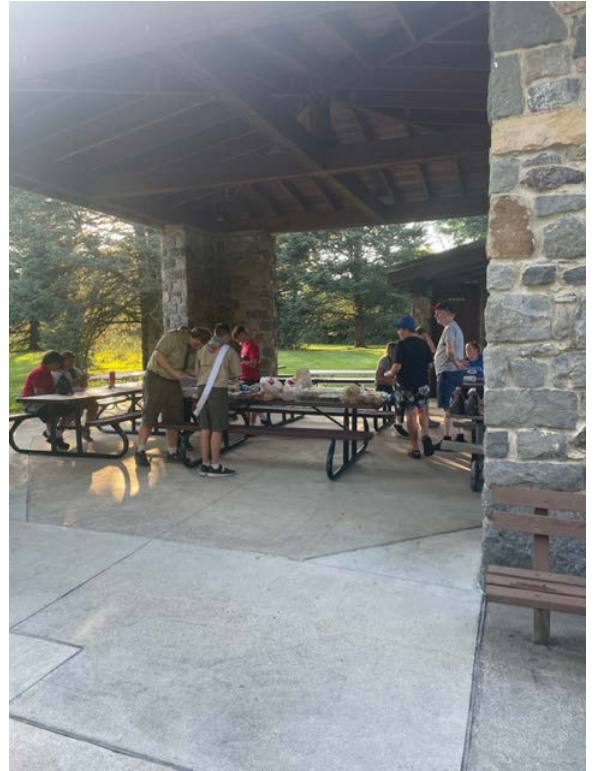


A colorful poster for the 2nd Annual Palmer Township Trick or Treat Trail. At the top, the title "2nd ANNUAL PALMER TOWNSHIP TRICK OR TREAT TRAIL!" is written in white and purple. Below the title are four cartoon characters: a witch, a jack-o'-lantern, a ghost, and a girl in a red hood. They are standing behind a wooden sign that contains the event details. The sign text includes the date (Saturday, October 21, 2023), time (4:30pm-6:30pm), and contact information (palmercommunitycenter@rcn.com). The sign also mentions that local businesses and organizations can contact them before September 21st. At the bottom of the sign, it says "This is a community-wide, family-friendly event so we hope you will join us!" and "The Charles Chrin Community Center Of Palmer Township". The background of the poster is dark with silhouettes of trees and a witch's broom.





# The Takhone Corner



Pictures from the Takhone Chapter picnic on August 15, at Louise Moore Park.





#ADVENTUREON  
BEASCOUT.ORG



# Scout Recruiting BASD AREA

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2023**  
**12:00-4:00**  
**SAINT ANNE'S CHURCH**  
**450 E WASHINGTON AVE**  
**BETHLEHEM, PA 18017**



## Live Demonstrations

From first aid to adventure, you'll see live demonstrations and get to know what scouting is all about.

- Why Scouting?
- Try new things.
- Build self-confidence.
- Meet new friends.



## Join Today

For more than 100 years, Scouting programs have instilled in youth the values found in the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Today, these values are just as relevant in helping youth grow to their full potential as they were in 1910.



**CONTACT US**

Patti Davis  
davispr91@outlook.com

Join Online at:  
[www.beascout.org](http://www.beascout.org)



# IS YOUR PACK PREPARED?

Strengthen and Grow Your Pack by:

## TASKS:

Help schedule and lead your school sign-up night.

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Conduct "Back to the Pack" event in July.

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Schedule Fun Activity / Parent Orientation.

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Attend District Fall Recruiting event.

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Share pack activities on social media.

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Conduct a least one service project at your school per year. Participate at sneak-a-peaks or open houses.

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Invite school administrative staff to Scouting events. (Pinewood Derby, Blue & Gold, etc.)

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### RECRUITMENT GOAL

Last fall we recruited \_\_\_\_\_ new Scouts.

This year our goal is to recruit \_\_\_\_\_ new Scouts!

**Membership Coordinator:** -----

**Pack Number:** -----

**Our School(s):** -----



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL



New parents who meet a pack leader the night of the sign up are more likely to return.





## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA<sup>®</sup> MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL

June 2, 2023

Minsi Trails Council Family,

Earlier this week the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America announced an increase to national membership fees based upon rising operating costs. Effective August 1, 2023, the national membership fee for youth members will increase by \$5/year and the national membership fee for adults will increase by \$15/year. Merit Badge Counselors not already registered in a Scouting position will be required to pay a national annual fee of \$25. Additionally, as of September 1, 2023, adults staying overnight in connection with any Scouting activity must be currently registered. The national, one-time new member joining fee of \$25 for program participants in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts remains in place. The BSA Unit Recharter Fee (which is also a national fee) will remain unchanged.

It is important to note the National Membership Fee, Joining Fee, and Unit Recharter Fee are all National BSA fees and none of these funds stay with our local Scouting program in Minsi Trails. Unlike all neighboring councils, Minsi Trails does not charge local program, insurance, or service fees to participants.

Please see the attached Infographic for additional information about the new national fee structure.

BSA National also announced that beginning August 1, 2023, all new youth and adult members who join Scouting will be enrolled in a 12-month membership cycle and BSA will cease prorating fees. Both youth and adults will pay the full annual membership fee and will renew their membership on their anniversary date. All proration of membership fees will be eliminated. Registered members of the BSA will receive an email notice with a registration renewal link 60 days before the anniversary date they joined Scouting. Unit leaders will receive a copy of the email and should stay engaged in the membership renewal process just like rechartering. We will share additional details on the process when they become available from the National Office.

We recognize these fee increases may be difficult for some Scouting families and encourage them to use the annual Fall Popcorn Sale as a way for Scouts to earn their own way. We encourage Scouting Units and Sponsoring Organizations to help support Scouting families in need. Minsi Trails Council also has funds available to help support Scouts and families with the greatest financial needs. If you have a Scout that is truly in need, please have them contact their District Executive to apply for financial assistance.

The Scouting program remains one of the most valuable investments we can make in today's youth. Our dedicated volunteers, staff, and families make the Scouting program possible. Thank you for continuing to make a difference in the lives of the youth we serve.

Yours In Scouting,

Rick Christ  
Scout Executive

P.O. Box 20624  
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0624

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[www.minsitrails.com](http://www.minsitrails.com)

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# Minsi Trails Council, BSA

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE

### Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouting Participants

National BSA Membership Fee	Minsi Trails Council Insurance Fee	Minsi Trails Council Program Fee	Total Registration Fee
\$80	\$0	\$0	\$80

Neighboring Council	National BSA Membership Fee	Council Fee	Total Registration Fee
Washington Crossing	\$80	\$72	\$152
Northeast PA	\$80	\$30	\$110
Hawk Mountain	\$80	\$55	\$135
Patriots Path	\$80	\$40	\$120

### All Adult Volunteers (Units & Non-Units)

National BSA Membership Fee	Minsi Trails Council Insurance Fee	Minsi Trails Council Program Fee	Total Registration Fee
\$60	\$0	\$0	\$60

**\$25** One-time joining fee for new program participants in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouting

**\$25** Merit Badge Counselors (New Fee applies only for Merit Badge Counselors not already registered as leaders)

### Exploring Participants Youth & Adult

National BSA Membership Fee	Minsi Trails Council Insurance Fee	Minsi Trails Council Program Fee	Total Registration Fee
\$50	\$0	\$0	\$50

### Unit Charter/Affiliation Fee

**\$100** Unit Charter/Affiliation Fee

**Effective August 1, 2023**

## Frequently Asked Questions About BSA National Membership Fee Increase

### **What is driving the youth and adult national membership fee increase?**

- General Liability Insurance costs to protect volunteer leaders, staff, charter organizations, units, and youth.
- BSA restructuring costs.
- Enhanced Criminal Background check processes and investments in Youth protection and safety programs.

### **What steps has the National Service Center taken to manage costs?**

- Completed a new staff structure and streamlined both the professional workforce and the volunteer structure, while maintaining essential services.
- Reduced the National staff workforce to support essential services.
- Reduced expenses throughout the National organization.

### **What is the new national membership fee for youth and adults? Will the fees go up again?**

- The new adult national membership fee is \$60, and the youth national membership fee is \$80 annually.
- The BSA will continue to evaluate the national membership fees and keep our councils and unit leaders informed of any further changes to the fee structure.

### **What benefits and services are provided to the unit with the national registration fee?**

- Expanded General Liability Insurance protections for the chartered organization and unit leaders in the event of an incident.
- Program research and development including, Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing and Exploring.
- Access to Youth Protection Training, Incident Reporting and Scouts First Helpline: 1- 844-Scouts1.
- Access to leadership specific training for adult leaders.
- Investments in program literature and resource development.
- Ability to purchase Uniforms, Insignia and Recognition for youth and Adults.
- Provides access to Membership, Marketing, and Brand Center resources.
- Provides important technology support including Scout Book, on-line registration, on-line advancement, and rechartering, My. Scouting, BeAScout, and BSA Brand Center for digital assets.
- Access to the four BSA High Adventure Properties including Philmont Scout Ranch, Florida Sea Base, Northern Tier High Adventure Base, and the Summit Bechtel Reserve.

# SCOUTBOOK TIPS

## HOW TO PRINT BLUE CARDS FROM SCOUTBOOK

1. Log into Scoutbook
2. Click on “My Dashboard”
3. Click on appropriate “Unit”.

### FIRST ENTER THE MERIT BADGE WITH THE SCOUT

4. Click on “Troop Roster”.
5. Click on appropriate “Scout”.
6. Click on “Scout Advancement”.
7. Go to the bottom of the page.
8. Click on “Start another Merit Badge”.
9. Click on “Start a Merit Badge”.
10. Click on the appropriate Merit Badge from the list.

The image shows a blue merit badge application card. On the left, there is a section titled 'Information for Applicant' with bullet points: 'A merit badge application can be approved only by a registered merit badge counselor.', 'You must have a buddy with you (Scout buddy system) at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.', and 'Turn in your approved application to your unit leader. You will be awarded the merit badge emblem and certificate at a suitable occasion.' Below this is 'Information for Counselor' with bullet points: 'Merit badge applications must be signed in advance by the applicant's unit leader.', 'The Scout must have the buddy (Scout buddy system) in attendance at all instructional sessions.', and 'You may not change any requirement, but you may share your knowledge or experience that will make the counseling more interesting and valuable.' The card has a grid for recording progress with columns for 'Counselor', 'Date of approval', and 'Scout'. At the bottom, there is a signature line, the number '3412AA', a barcode, and the Boy Scouts of America logo.

### DO STEPS 4 THROUGH 10 FOR ALL THE SCOUTS/ MERIT BADGES FOR WHICH BLUE CARDS ARE NEEDED

11. Click on “My Dash board”.
12. Click on “Unit”.
13. Click on “Print Blue Cards”.
14. Set dates.
15. Click on “Update Filter”.
16. Click on print on blank 8.5x11 paper - “BOX”.

### PAPER CAN BE EITHER BLUE (PREFERRED) OR WHITE

17. Turn off “Show Unit Leader Signature” and “Show Merit Badge Counselor Signature”.
18. Click on appropriate Scouts/Merit Badges.
19. Click on “Print Cards”
20. Set printer for print on both sides.



**SEPTEMBER 8,  
2023**

**GATES  
OPEN  
5PM**



**BECKY'S DRIVE IN  
CUB SCOUT CAMP OUT**

**AT: BECKY'S DRIVE IN**

**Cost Per Peron \$12.00 / Register as unit**

**Contact: [mike.borgman@scouting.org](mailto:mike.borgman@scouting.org)**

**wristbands for kids are included**

**Pony rides and other activities included in wristband**

**For more info: [www.minsitrails.org](http://www.minsitrails.org)**



**SEPTEMBER  
16, 2023**

**GATES  
OPEN  
5PM**



**DRIVE IN  
CUB SCOUT CAMP OUT  
AT: SHANKWEILER'S DRIVE IN**

**COST**

**\$13.00 per Movie Only - Adult**

**\$13.00 per Movie Only - Youth**

**\$13.00 per Overnight Camping - Adult**

**\$13.00 per Overnight Camping - Youth**

For more info: [www.minsitrails.org](http://www.minsitrails.org)

# Your training opportunities

*Do it now and become a better leader!*

SEP  
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## Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills IOLS - Virtual Session

Minsi Trails Council Fall 2023 Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS)  
This course is required to be taken to be...

SEP  
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## Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills IOLS

Minsi Trails Council Fall 2023 Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS)  
This course is required to be taken to be considered...

NOV  
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## 2023 Wood Badge Reunion and Auction

[click here for printable...](#)

NOV  
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## NRA Range Safety Officer Training

NRA RSO (Range Safety Officer) Date – Saturday November 18th 2023  
Location 57 south Commerce Way Suite 220 Bethlehem, PA....

DEC  
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## 2023 Monroe Merit Badge College

2023 Monroe Merit Badge College Save the Date Saturday, December, 9th, 2023  
Northampton Community College, Monroe Campus For Additional...



## NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT COMMITTEE

District Chair	Mike Caffery	610-295-8816	<a href="mailto:mikecee1062@yahoo.com">mikecee1062@yahoo.com</a>
District Commissioner	Bill Brugger		<a href="mailto:we.brugger@gmail.com">we.brugger@gmail.com</a>
Senior District Executive	Mike Borgman	610-762-8959	<a href="mailto:mike.borgman@scouting.org">mike.borgman@scouting.org</a>
District Executive	Melissa Mohr	610-465-8565	<a href="mailto:melissa.mohr@scouting.org">melissa.mohr@scouting.org</a>
Roundtable Commissioner—Cub Scout			
Roundtable Commissioner—Scouts BSA	Jim Swain	610-974-9150	<a href="mailto:jim.swain@rcn.com">jim.swain@rcn.com</a>
	Melanie Hunt		
Nominating Committee Chair	Matt Pye		
Executive Board Liaison	Ed Cool		
Webmaster	Greta Bergstresser		
Finance Chair			
Family FOS Chair	Bob Obermeyer		<a href="mailto:obie1949@gmail.com">obie1949@gmail.com</a>
	Bill Brugger		
Popcorn Chair			
Membership Chair	Patti Davis	610-597-5587	<a href="mailto:Davispr91@outlook.com">Davispr91@outlook.com</a>
Exploring Chair			
Marketing Chair			
Activities Chair			
Cub Scout Activities Chair	Juila Varsamas		
Scouts BSA Activities Chair			
Scouting For Food Chair			
Advancement Chair	Jim Daley	610-759-7169	<a href="mailto:j.daley@rcn.com">j.daley@rcn.com</a>
Cub Scout Advancement Chair	Saadia Ackerson	610-442-4083	<a href="mailto:saadialin@gmail.com">saadialin@gmail.com</a>
Eagle Scout Chair	Jim Daley	610-759-7169	<a href="mailto:j.daley@rcn.com">j.daley@rcn.com</a>
Merit Badge Counselor Chair	Bruce Horton	484-281-3441	<a href="mailto:bhworks@bellatlantic.net">bhworks@bellatlantic.net</a>
Scouts BSA Advancement Chair	Bill Gade	610-762-9396	<a href="mailto:wagade@yahoo.com">wagade@yahoo.com</a>
Training Chair			
Cub Scout Leader Training Chair			
Scouts BSA Leader Training Chair			
OA Chapter Adviser	Anthony Garguilo	484-554-5815	<a href="mailto:garguiloanthony@gmail.com">garguiloanthony@gmail.com</a>
Associate OA Chapter Adviser	Dave Hay	610-861-4494	<a href="mailto:sayhay@ptd.net">sayhay@ptd.net</a>
Newsletter Editor	Bernie Suess	484-330-6915	<a href="mailto:newsletter@minsi-northampton.com">newsletter@minsi-northampton.com</a>

*Any Scouter interested in serving on the District Committee, contact Mike Caffrey  
or if interested in serving as a Commissioner, contact District Commissioner Bill Brugger.*