



OCTOBER 2023 Northampton District Newsletter

Northampton District

MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL, BSA



NEWSLETTER... CHANGING LEAVES...

With the beginning of fall, we have *changing colors of leaves and pumpkin pie*. But making memories is only part of what Scouting is! Now is the time to recruit new scouts and tell their families what this great adventure is all about.

You can 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. Submit your information by the first day of each month for the following month's newsletter and share the adventure.

2023 DATES

Roundtable 7:00pm	as scheduled (council-wide)
OA Chapter 7:00pm	2 nd Wednesday
District Committee 7:00pm	1 st Wednesday
Eagle Board & Project Review	[as needed]
District Commissioners	3 rd 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]
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]
Recharter Help Line	Oct. 27 to Nov. 17 [online]
Scouting for Food	November 4 and 11
Wood Badge Reunion Dinner	November 5 [10]
District Recharter Night	November 9 [1]

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

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

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

District newsletter archive (permalink):

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

OCTOBER 4 - Northampton District Committee meeting

OCTOBER 6 to 8 - OA Octoberfest Weekend, Camp Minsi

OCTOBER 13 to 15 - Cub Scout Fall Family Weekend, Camp Minsi

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

OCTOBER 27 to NOVEMBER 17 - Recharter Help Line, 8 PM to 9 PM, (check council website for link)

NOVEMBER 4 - Scouting for Food, bag drop off

NOVEMBER 5 - Wood Badge Reunion Dinner, East Hills Moravian Church, Bethlehem

NOVEMBER 9 - Northampton District Recharter Night

NOVEMBER 11 - Scouting for Food, food pick up

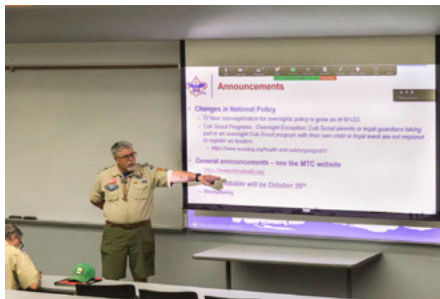
COUNCIL-WIDE ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

Time and location(s) TBA

DATE	MAIN TOPIC	CUB SCOUTS	SCOUTS, BSA	SCOUTBOOK
Oct. 26	Rechartering			

In Northampton District

**Council-wide Roundtable - Northampton Community College and online
September 13, 2023**



In Northampton District

***Northampton District Recruiting Event - St. Anne Church, Bethlehem
September 16, 2023***



In Northampton District

Patriot Day Flag Retirement Ceremony - Hanover Township Community Center September 11, 2023

Hello Fellow Northampton Scouts and Leaders,

This year marked the 21st year that Hanover Township Northampton County held its annual Patriot Day commemoration remembering those souls tragically lost on 9/11/2001. Being the 21st year, our oldest youth scouts were only born in that fateful year. So it is highly unlikely that any of those youth remember the events as they unfolded that day and the many weeks and months after. The pictures and videos of searchers, family members, co-workers looking, hoping, praying for a miracle. For many of the adults reading this article, it was the Pearl Harbor of our generation.

In the days/weeks/months following this tragedy, there was unity in our country. A feeling of national pride with people flying American flags for no reason, except to display that pride. The majority of people attending sporting events wholeheartedly singing the National Anthem. Churches were packed and people were courteous. Unfortunately, the remembrance began to fade. People focusing on themselves, and not on others, has again taken hold and divisiveness has entered the spotlight.

Hanover's Patriot Day has always included a flag retirement ceremony that has been managed by Scouts. The day that we remember the violation and loss of 9/11, we also mark as a day to come together and work in solidarity to properly retire flags that are no longer in good condition. Working hand in hand for a common goal allows us to focus on that commonality and not to focus on what makes us different. Let's hope and pray that our small effort at working in unison can be an example for others to follow.

Thank you to all the Scouts and Leaders who were able to take time out on September 11th to remember and reflect on those heroes who gave their lives that fateful day while working together in the common goal of helping with the dignified and respectful retirement of the symbol of our country. You lived up to the Scout Oath that day by doing your duty to both God and Country. Thank you!

Best Regards, Mike

By the way, Tony R. from Troop 318 was the master of ceremonies; Emmanuel M. from Troop 318, Robert C. from Troop 318, and Andrew S. from Troop 359 were the color guard.



NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT CHAIR

Hello Northampton District Leaders,

I hope that you are well and your fall unit plans are moving along smoothly and recruiting is in full swing. You should have seen emails from the District, namely our Membership Chair Patti Davis, that this year the National Council has begun efforts to change the way new scouts are enrolled in Scouting and how we will Recharter existing Scouts and Leaders. We have pulled in the recharter from December to early November in an effort to close all chartering efforts by 12/31/23. It is extremely important to set up a time on November 9th (at Council Offices on Postal Road) to help you recharter. Below is the link to the sign-up website for this event.

Northampton District Recharter Day

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084AA4AD29A7F58-northampton>

Equally important for rechartering is to get started on reviewing that your adult leaders have the necessary clearances up to date in order to complete rechartering. We fully realize that this can be a monumental task to ensure that Scout clearances, including PA State required clearances, are completed for each adult to allow compliance. We also understand that there can be more requirements placed on volunteering adults by their charter organization. These take time to complete and while some can be cumbersome, they are an unavoidable requirement for compliance and the safety of our youth members. If you haven't started on this already, please begin now and please sign up for a time slot on November 9th. Thank you very much in advance.

YIS,

Mike



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

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

Recharter News

Internet recharter opens October 1. We recommend that you begin reviewing your current charter now.

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. The following are some steps to begin the process and be prepared.

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 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 (<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/KeepKidsSafe/>). 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. 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.
4. 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.

Northampton District Recharter Day

Northampton District will hold its recharter event on Thursday, November 9th from 6 pm to 9 pm at Council Office. NOTE: All charters must be into council for processing no later than November 18th. Charters will not be processed if information is missing. Any charter that is not posted by council by 12/31/2023 will have to sign up as a new unit. We encourage all units to complete their charter and turn it in by November 9th. This will give you sufficient time should you have errors which need to be corrected.

Units are asked to sign up for a time slot at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084AA4AD29A7F58-northampton>

Recharter Checklist

Unit Key 3 were emailed a Recharter Checklist. To minimize your time, we are asking that you complete the checklist and bring it along with the required documentation listed to your recharter appointment.

Journey to Excellence form can be found at: <https://www.scouting.org/awards/journey-to-excellence/tracking-workbooks/>. Once there click on the tracking workbook 2023 then either Pack or Troop to complete and print. **This needs to be submitted along with your charter.**

Charter Organization Agreement can be found at: https://pdscouting.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Annual-Charter-Agreement-Charter-Organizations_Short-Version_8.26.2022.pdf This needs to be completed and signed by your Institutional Head and turned in with your charter.

Northampton District/National Award information can be found on the Minsi Trails website at <https://www.minsitrails.org/districts/northampton-district/60269>. We ask that each unit review the awards. Please nominate a candidate from your unit for the District Scouting Spirit Award and turn it in along with your charter. **See more information on page 21 of this newsletter.**

Membership News

The following information can be found on the Minsi Trails website under resources/Charter Renewal

Completing the Online Charter:

1. Log into my.scouting.org and ensure the current Key 3 leaders are correct. This is essential and must be done as soon as possible since changes at this step can delay the subsequent steps.
2. Open the User Guide to follow along: **2023 Internet Recharter User Guide 2.0** (<https://www.minsitrails.org/document/2022internetrecharteruserguide/210194>)
3. Log into Internet Advancement 2.0 & click on Recharter Internet Recharter Log In (<https://advancements.scouting.org/login>)
4. Check that all youth and adults are currently registered with the unit appear on your roster in my.scouting.org.
5. Applications for any new adults must be uploaded into the charter renewal along with their Youth Protection Training Certificate, Criminal Background Check Authorization, and 3 PA state clearances. This includes any adult who is moving from a Tiger Parent or Lion Parent into a leadership position and those who have turned 18 and are moving from a youth position to an Assistant Scoutmaster position or who is being entered as a UP, VP, or EP (Unit Participant, Venturing Participant, or Exploring Participant). You will need to enter any adult who is on the charter as an AP or LP and moving into a leadership position or a youth moving into a new leader position or into a UP/VP or EP as New Adult and upload all required documents.
6. Applications for any new youth must be uploaded into the charter renewal.
7. Confirm that all required information has been completed on the adult and youth applications before uploading the documents.
8. Bring copies of all supporting documents to your district rechartering event.

Pay the 2023 BSA Registration fees via check to Minsi Trails Council in the office or at your district recharter event.

Please Note: DO NOT Pay by E-check or Credit Card online.

The Key 3 leaders will receive an email for a final digital approval signature. This must be completed in order to finalize the Charter Renewal, please print, and bring a copy of this charter renewal with you to rechartering day.

To ensure a timely process of your Charter Renewal, be sure your CURRENT key leadership (including the COR and IH) have established their [My.Scouting](https://my.scouting.org) accounts and are ready to make approvals of new members and the charter renewal application. This message is only being sent to the unit Key 3 listed in [My.Scouting](https://my.scouting.org). If your Scouting role has changed, please forward this message to the person who now has your former role.

The system will not allow you to submit your charter if any adult YPT is expired.

Your Unit Commissioner, District Commissioner, and District Executive are great resources to help you through this process.

Recharter Training & Help Sessions:

Minsi Trails Council Commissioners are providing a RECHARTER training roundtable on October 26, 2023 to review the renewal process. The roundtable will be a hybrid (in-person and online) for Individuals to attend. It will be a soup-to-nuts session for people who want more in-depth re-charter training.

Questions? Contact your commissioner or district executive.

Charter Renewal Q&A Help Sessions will be available online from 8:00 to 9:00 pm beginning October 27th through November 17th. These sessions will be staffed by commissioners with experience with the process to help you answer questions. We may need you to share your screen to work through your questions if you have access from your login device. There is no limit to the number of sessions you may attend.

Membership News

New 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. In addition, National will begin collecting these fees directly from new Scouts and adult volunteers who register online. All Scouts and adult leaders on your charter as of July 31, 2023, will have an anniversary date of December 31 (the expiration of your unit charter). According to council at this time you 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 November as in the past.

Any youth or adult who joins on or after August 1, 2023 will be charged the full year registration by National via the online application process. **Before accepting online applications, we recommend that you speak with new families to explain 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. Scouts and adult leaders who join your unit on or after August 1, 2023, will carry the anniversary date that they joined Scouting rather than the December 31st date. These participants will be shown on your charter as pre-paid so you will not be billed for them.

Should you have any questions please contact Mike Borgman at Mike.Borgman@scouting.org, Melissa Mohr at melissa.mohr@scouting.org, or Patti Davis at 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? Any adult who attends a **Troop** 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; **this applies to Scout BSA units only**. 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.**

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

Membership News

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.

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* (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.

Membership News

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?

Sept. 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.

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 or Melissa Mohr at melissa.mohr@scouting.org. We would appreciate any help you can provide.

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 News

Unit Commissioners Needed

Volunteers are needed as Unit Commissioners. Contact District Commissioner Bill Brugger at 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.

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

Mark your calendars for the following dates:

October 26	Rechartering Roundtable	
Oct. 27 to Nov. 17	Recharter Help line (Open 8 – 9PM)	
	<i>Check Council website for sign-in information</i>	
November 4	Scouting for Food—Door Hanger Drop off.	
November 5	Wood Badge Reunion Dinner	
November 9	Northampton District Recharter Night	
November 11	Scouting for Food—Food pick up.	
February 23-25	Northampton Klondike	Camp Minsi
February 24	Northampton District Winter Webelo Event	
March 16	District Pinewood Derby	Location TBD
April 11	First Aid – Klecknersville Fire Company	
May 4	District Bike Hike (Cubs/Troops)	Location TBD
May 22	District Picnic	Louise Moore Park

Patti Davis
Northampton District Membership Chair



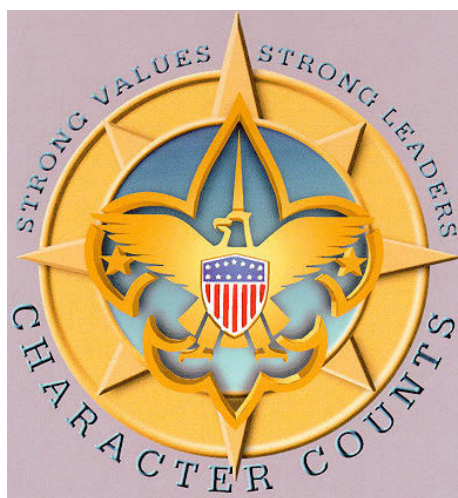
Looking for Palmer Township Businesses or Groups who would be interested in participating in Palmer Township's Second Annual Trick or Treat Trail!

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.



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 and time, contact information for local businesses, and a note that the event is family-friendly. The background of the sign is purple with white spider webs. At the bottom of the sign, it says "The Charles Chrin Community Center Of Palmer Township". There are also illustrations of a broom, a cauldron, and a witch's hat on the sign.





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA[®] 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

Prepared. For Life.®



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.

The Takhone Corner



Hello Everyone!

Congratulations to everyone who did their ordeal this past fall weekend! Congratulations to our new chapter chief and chapter vice chief who were elected at our last meeting!

Casey from Troop 311 is our new Takhone Chapter Chief and Nick from Troop 311 is our new Takhone Chapter Vice Chief.

Anthony from Troop 306 is our Chapter Adviser
Dave from Troop 359 is our Associate Chapter Adviser
Chris from Troop 311 is our new Associate Chapter Adviser

A lot of new and exciting things are coming soon for the Takhone Chapter!

I would like to thank Andrew for serving as our Chapter Chief for the last two years!



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 merit badge application form from Boy Scouts of America. The form is titled "APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE" and includes sections for "Information for Applicant", "Information for Counselor", and a table for recording progress. The form is numbered 3412AA and includes a barcode at the bottom left.

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.

Taking Your Scouts To A Civil War Battlefield?

I am a Civil War reenactor with the 153rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry and an Eagle Scout. I would be happy to come to your meeting to explain the battlefield you are going to, or just Civil War history in general. I do all presentations in full period uniform.

David Burgermeister
610-694-9520



Upcoming training opportunities

Become a better leader!

NOV
5 [2023 Wood Badge Reunion and Auction](#)
click here for printable...

NOV
18 [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
9 [2023 Monroe Merit Badge College](#)
2023 Monroe Merit Badge College Save the Date Saturday, December, 9th, 2023
Northampton Community College, Monroe Campus For Additional...

****NOMINATIONS NEEDED****

FOR

SCOUTING SPIRIT AWARD

The Scouting Spirit Award is designed to recognize one individual in a unit who best exemplifies the ideals of Scouting in everything that they do. They do not need to be a registered leader, but should motivate others, work tirelessly, and have a positive influence with all they encounter.

The District awards committee highly recommends that each Troop, Pack, and Crew nominate one adult member associated with their unit for this award. This is a small way to recognize those who continue to volunteer their time and effort to Scouting.

The award nomination form is on the Minsi Trails Council / Northampton District website at:

<https://www.minsitrails.org/document/nd-scoutingspiritawardnominationform/>

Please submit the completed form to Michael Caffrey at mikecee1062@yahoo.com by November 9, 2023.

NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT COMMITTEE

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

*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.*