#### BRIEFLY... BE THANKFUL!!

Scouts and leaders *should be thankful* for the opportunities Scouting provides to grow in character, skills, and leadership through meaningful adventures and service, such as Scouting for Food. They can be grateful for the friendships and sense of community that come from working together toward shared goals. Most of all, they should appreciate the chance to make a positive impact, both in their own lives and in the lives of others.

#### PLEASE NOTE: Northampton District DNL Trail bike hike

The Northampton District DNL Trail bike hike previously scheduled for November 16 has been cancelled due to lack of signups.

#### **Northampton District Roundtable**

There won't be Roundtables in November and December because of the busy holiday season. Look for updated information around the beginning of the new year. In the meantime, Northampton District Roundtable Commissioner Jim Swain has an article about High Adventure Winter Opportunities on page 13 to help you ramp up your outings.

#### **Pinewood Derby Cars**

Pack Leaders: Council will once again be providing all Packs with free pinewood derby cars for their registered Cubs. Cars will only be available to registered Scouts on your unit roster.

https://247scouting.com/forms/502-pwdcars2025

#### **2025 Monroe Merit Badge College**

Attention all Scouts, Crew members, Ship mates, and for the first time, Arrow of Light Scouts!! Registration is now open for the 2025 Monroe Merit Badge College!! East Stroudsburg, PA. Saturday, December 13th, 2025

More information inside. Register at: <a href="https://scoutingevent.com/502-MMBC2025">https://scoutingevent.com/502-MMBC2025</a>



# **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-V1.pdf

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\*: 2025-26 NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT & OTHER ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER 16 - Northampton District DNL Trail bike hike [cancelled due to lack of signups]

**DECEMBER 3** - Northampton District Committee meeting

**DECEMBER 13** - 2025 Monroe Merit Badge College East Stroudsburg University

DECEMBER 19 to 21 - NRA Rifle Instructor Course, Palmerton Rod & Gun Club

JANUARY 3 - Order of the Arrow Lodge Family Banquet, DeSales University

**JANUARY 7** - Northampton District Committee meeting

JANUARY 31 - Minsi Winter Fun Fest Camp Minsi

**FEBRUARY 21** - Klondike Derby (Save the Date)

MARCH 21 - 2026 University of Scouting, Pocono Campus, Northampton Community College

<sup>\*</sup>dates are tentative, check council calendar to verify

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Fall Camporee - Camp Minsi October 25, 2025

















































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P:ack 33 - Bath Halloween Parade







**Troop 62 Eagle Scout Projects** 









Troop 306 - Treasure Island outing



































Pack 306 - Corn Maze and Halloween Party























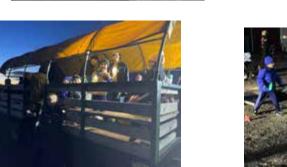
















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# NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT CHAIR

Hello fellow Northampton District scouters,

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families.

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. At this time of year as we are staring down Thanksgiving day, it's a great time to reflect and give thanks for all the things we have and enjoy in our lives and in our country. This is also the time of year that we have just wrapped up our annual Scouting For Food drive. I thank everyone who participated in distributing hang tags, took the time to pick up food the following week, and then deliver it to our local food banks. What a great gift this annual event is. It allows local residents to be connected to that giving, and it benefits folks who need help in their lives. But just as important is the lesson that it provides to our Scouts on how to live up to the Scout Oath by doing our duty to God and country and to help other people. It also reflects on our parents and leaders when our Scouts see them living out the Scout Oath. As they say, actions speak louder than words, and by our youth seeing their parents and leaders in action it leaves an indelible impression and teaching moment they will carry through their lives.

Personally, thank you for all of your time and effort supporting the needy as well as our local Scouting efforts.

Mike Caffrey
Northampton District Chair

Hello All,

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Please see the following post from Aneelia Wieand regarding one of our own young Scout leaders, Damien Weist, in need of assistance. Please take some time to read the posting: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/aneelia.wieand/posts/pfbid034Xf-brjFTEj3ijHLGKioD9kk8tNyxUi7q3ek6VrgXUnmu2xYDgA6DQK21q9BAAQHdl">https://www.facebook.com/aneelia.wieand/posts/pfbid034Xf-brjFTEj3ijHLGKioD9kk8tNyxUi7q3ek6VrgXUnmu2xYDgA6DQK21q9BAAQHdl</a>

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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/Safeguarding Youth Training before beginning the recharter process. In addition, if you have volunteers who are changing positions, please make sure you make the changes before recharter. When rechartering adult volunteers please make sure that their **email address** is up to date.

#### **Awards**

As you begin your recharter, please take some time to review the volunteer awards. Let's thank our volunteers who have taken the time to get position trained and who have gone the extra mile to help your unit and scouting. They deserve to be recognized and appreciated. Our volunteers work full time, have families and still take time to volunteer and often not just in scouting. Let's acknowledge them!

#### **Recharter Help**

Council is setting up area locations around the council to help with issues you may have with the renewal process. Dates, times, and locations will be posted on the council website.

Recharter opens for our district beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>. All unit rechartering must be completed by December 31, 2025 for the 2026 calendar year.

#### **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.



#### **Pinewood Derby Cars**

Council will be providing all Packs with free pinewood derby cars for their registered Cubs again this year. Cars will only be available to registered Scouts on your unit roster. <a href="https://247scouting.com/forms/502-pwdcars2025">https://247scouting.com/forms/502-pwdcars2025</a> We look forward to another great racing year!



#### **Fall Recruitment**

Units planning to recruit this fall, make sure you check out the Minsi Trail Council website under units & leader resources/membership (<a href="https://www.minsitrails.org/membership">https://www.minsitrails.org/membership</a>). 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.

#### **Fall Recruitment Winners**

Congratulations to the following units who participated in the Council Fall Recruitment Incentive. All units attended a recruiting presentation and received a shout out on Facebook. Eleven of our units ranked Council wide and recruited 83 new Cubs into Scouting.

#5 Pack 368 – 13 new Cubs – bobcat award & free tent camping #7 Pack 317 – 10 new Cubs – bobcat award & free tent camping Pack 29 - 10 new Cubs - bobcat award & free tent camping #7 Pack 76 - 9 new Cubs - bobcat awards #8 Pack 359 - 8 new Cubs - bobcat awards #9 #9 Pack 14 - 8 new Cubs - bobcat awards #10 Pack 3 - 7 new Cubs – bobcat awards #11 Pack 306 - 6 new Cubs – bobcat awards #12 pack 44 - 5 new Cubs - bobcat awards #13 Pack 40 - 4 new Cubs - Facebook Shout out #14 Pack 33 - 3 new Cubs - Facebook Shout out

On behalf of our district and council we would like to thank you for all for your efforts and welcome our new Scout families.

#### **Other Recruiting Opportunities**

Check in your community for other opportunities to recruit. Consider having a "bring a friend night" event. Troops, reach out to packs for Arrow of Light visits to your unit.

#### **Scouting for Food**

Don't forget to record your service hours for Scouting for Food. Service hours are now being reported via Scoutbook. List all registered scouts who participated. Council will be giving those scout youth who helped a free Scouting for Food patch. Adult volunteers or non-registered youth who wish to get a patch can do so for a fee

#### **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.



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#### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDERS**

As of August 1<sup>st</sup> Scouting America started 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.

#### 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!

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#### 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 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: <a href="mailto:historictrails@minsitrails.org">historictrails@minsitrails.org</a>

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

Patti Davis

Northampton District Membership Chair



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# **Northampton County District October 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



10/6/2025	Hunter Z	Troop 41
10/13/2025	Jackson T	Troop 302
10/27/2025	Frank B	Troop 306
10/27/2025	Evan T	Troop 74
10/25/2025	Alexander O	Troop 31



# High Adventure Winter Opportunities

Looking for another option for your experienced scouts?

How about dog-sledding in Maine? Snow-shoeing in Minnesota?

Tired of talking about building snow shelters, but barely have enough snow for a toboggan slide down a hill? If so, here are some ideas that could bring a new spark to your winter program.

Let's start pretty far from Pennsylvania – Philmont.

Winter in the Rockies! Snow-shoeing, snow shelters, sledding, tenting or cabin camping, and tubing. There are even partnerships with nearby ski resorts for additional fun.

https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/treks/secondseasonprograms/winteradventure/

Here is the planning guide with more information on what activities and resources are available:

https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2026-Winter-Adventure-Program-Planning-Guide.pdf

Now let's head north, and just a little bit east - Northern Tier.

Winter on the lakes. Ice fishing, dog sledding, cross-country skiing, shelter building,

Treks include 3 different level of dog-sledding, depending on your experience level. These are organized for long weekend adventures.

https://www.ntier.org/winter-adventures/

Jim Swain, Northampton District Roundtable Commissioner





# Scouting America Minsi Trails Council

# Monroe Merit Badge College



# East Stroudsburg University Saturday, December 13, 2025 REGISTRATION 8-8:30AM OPENING 8:45 Sessions 9AM-5:30PM



#### **Important:** No registrations will be accepted after December 11th.

Scouts can and are encouraged to register for more than one Merit Badge, (not to exceed 8 hours of total class time).

Registration fee includes facility usage, continental breakfast, materials, lunch and 2025 rocker patch. Merit Badge Courses are for currently registered Scouts with Scouting America

#### Important:

- Class registration can be found on the council calendar. All registrations must be done on-line. Payments should be made to the council service center or online at time of registration prior to the event. NO PAYMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED THE DAY OF THE EVENT UNLESS PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.
- All participating Scouts must bring merit badge blue cards approved by their respective leaders.
- For all Merit Badges being completed at Merit Badge College, you must follow the most current requirements as published by Scouting America.
- All pre-requisites must be completed prior to the Merit Badge College to receive credit for badge completion.
- A Scout completing a pre-requisite needs to understand that a written response must be in their own words. A written response involving text a Scout has "copied and pasted" (or otherwise borrowed verbatim from a source) will not be accepted as fulfillment of a pre-requisite.
- All written requirements must be legible.
- Partials will be issued for incomplete work.
- Some badges require outside walking. Be prepared for weather conditions.
- The Scout Oath and The Scout Law shall be the code of Merit Badge College.
- Full, Class "A" uniform is required.
- Be Prepared.

Attendance is no guarantee of receiving credit for the merit badge(s) attempted at Merit Badge College. All merit badges require active preparation and participation.

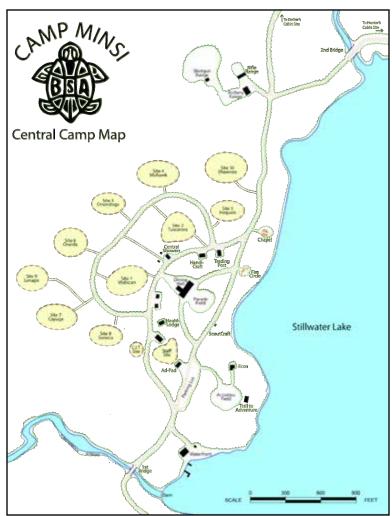
ALL QUESTIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO ED SCHAEFER

Edward.schaefer@scouting.org

https://www.scoutingevent.com/502-MMBC2025

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# Camp Minsi WINTERFEST January 31, 2026



#### 9:00 Arrival, Check-in & Gathering

10:00 Program starts - if there is ice, everyone must get a safety briefing at the Dining Hall before venturing on Lake Stillwater

#### Programs include:

Fireplace & Hot Beverages in the Dining Hall

Orienteering/Geocaching

Ice Rescue Demo (TTVFC) 2:00 pm

US Navy Reserve Cold Weather Demo

Ice Hockey/Skating - Bring your Own Skates (If ice is safe)

Ice Bowling & other games - (If Ice is safe)

Ice Fishing demos & fun (If Ice is safe - otherwise it will be a demonstration only)

Snow Shoeing (If there is snow)

Rifle Range - closes at 3:30 - Scouts BSA only

And more!

#### Lunch & Snacks for sale from 11:00 to 1:00 from Crew 940

Programs close from 11:30-12:30 for lunch

4:00 Programs end



### 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 <u>supplements or extends</u> 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.





# 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 14th, from 1 4 pm
- Sunday, September 21st, 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 14th, from 1 4 pm
- Sunday, September 21st, 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



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

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# **The Takhone Corner**



For this month's chapter gathering, we will be meeting at North Summit Climbing Gym on November 23rd from 2:30 to 4:30 pm.

Cost will be \$20 to climb and \$5 if you want to rent climbing shoes. You may just use your normal shoes though.

The address of North Summit Climbing Gym is 481 Bushkill Plaza, Wind Gap, PA 18091

Youth under 18, please have a parent complete this waiver:

#### https://waiver.smartwaiver.com/w/5e0547d4a66ea/web/

They may also fill it out at the climbing gym but one must be completed before you can climb.

Hope to see you there!

Don't forget the Lodge Family Banquet is on January 3, 2026 at DeSales University Center. Registration closes December 26, 2025. For details visit: <a href="https://witauchsoman.org/banquet/">https://witauchsoman.org/banquet/</a>

