



APRIL 2020 South Mountain District Newsletter

South Mountain District

MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL, BSA



NEWSLETTER... NEWS!!

In spite of everything going on, we are here! Your district volunteers and professionals are working tirelessly (albeit remotely) to keep the district moving forward. Online options are being planned.

Anyone who has ideas about what to do during and after our current "safe distancing" phase, please submit articles and/or photos for the District newsletter to Bernie Suess at newsletter@minsi-south-mountain.com. Submit your information by the first day of the month.

2020 DATES

Roundtable / OA Chapter 7:00pm
District Committee 7:00pm
Eagle Board & Project Review 7:00pm
District Commissioners 7:00pm

1st Wednesday [2]
1st Monday [3]
3rd Tuesday [2]
3rd Wednesday [3]

District Recharter Day
OA Family Banquet
Council Recognition Dinner
Klondike Derby
Trainer's EDGE
University of Scouting
Pinewood Derby
District Recognition Dinner
National Youth Leadership Training
Beaver Weekend
Beaver Weekend
Spring OA Weekend
OA - Section NE-5 Conclave
SM District Planning Conference
Day Camp
NOAC
Fall OA Weekend
Fall Camporee
Fall Family Camp
OA OctoberFest Weekend
Fall Cub Event
Scouting for Food
Wood Badge Reunion Dinner
Popcorn distribution

January 4, 2020 [11]
January 4 [13]
January 31 [1]
February 21-23 [4]
February 8 [17]
March 14 [9]
March 21* [11]
March 28 [15]
April 17-19 and 24-26 [6]
May 1-3 [5]
May 8-10* [4]
May 29-31 [5]
June 5-7 [12]
June 17 [TBA]
July 13-17 [14]
August 3-8 [16]
September 11-13 [4]
October 2-4* [TBA]
October 2-4 [TBA]
October 9-11 [5]
October 17-18* [92]
November 7 and 14
November 1 [8]
November 20-21 [TBA]

**indicates tentative date*

MEETING LOCATION KEY

- [1] East Hills Moravian Church
1830 Butztown Rd, Bethlehem
- [2] St. Luke's Hospital and Health Network
800-801 Ostrum Street Bethlehem, PA 18018
- [3] Minsi Trails Council Office
- [4] Camp Minsi
- [5] Trexler Scout Reservation
- [6] Akelaland
- [7] Settler's Camp
- [8] Jordan Lutheran Church, 5103 Snowdrift Rd, Orefield, PA
- [9] Northampton Community College
- [11] First Baptist Church, Bethlehem
- [12] Goose Pond Scout Reservation, Lake Ariel, PA 18436
- [13] Stroudsmoor Inn, Stroudsburg, PA 18360
- [14] Louise Moore Park
- [15] Nitschmann Middle School, Bethlehem, PA
- [16] Michigan State University, Lansing, MI
- [17] St. Paul Roman Catholic Church, Allentown, PA
- [90] Harvel LCC, 300 Kuebler Road, Easton, PA 18040
- [91] Hellertown American Legion
- [92] Sportsmen's Club, Hellertown
- [93] Wesley United Methodist Church
- [94] Kutztown University
- [96] George E. Moerkirk Emergency Medical Institute
- [98] Resica Falls Scout Reservation
- [99] Summit Bechtel Reserve

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 South Mountain District is a geographical area located in Lehigh and Northampton counties which serves the school districts of Bethlehem Area, Saucon Valley, and Southern Lehigh. Municipalities within the South Mountain District include Bethlehem, Bethlehem Township, Center Valley, Coopersburg, Fountain Hill, Freemansburg, Hanover Township, Hellertown, Lower Milford, Lower Saucon, Steel City, and Upper Saucon.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DISTRICT LINKS

South Mountain District Home Page:

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/>

South Mountain District Fliers and Brochures Page:

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/fliers.htm>

South Mountain District Cub Resources Page:

http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/cub_resources.htm

South Mountain District Award Forms:

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/documents/Form-DistrictAwardofMerit.pdf>

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/documents/Form-Fellowship.pdf>

These forms are used for Scouter recognition.

http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/documents/District_Bio_Form.pdf

Scouter Bio Form. Fill in and email to the district at bios@minsi-southmountain.com

SMD Announcements

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/announce.htm>

Advancement and Recognition Guide

<http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/documents/Guide-Advancement.pdf>

FORUM Newsletter http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/current_forum.php

FORUM Attachments http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/newsletters/~forum_attach.php

IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP: 2020 SOUTH MOUNTAIN DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

ALL face to face meetings are on hold - South Mountain District is planning online meetings. Please check your email often to keep up to date.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DISTRICT ROUNDTABLE AGENDAS

Online Roundtable meetings are being planned

Start time is 7:00 PM

DATE	OVERALL PROGRAM	CUB SCOUTS (Program Leaders and Committee)	SCOUTS, BSA (youth and adults)	Disabilities & Differences JOINT SESSION
April 1		What are you doing in Scouting during the current situation? Web meeting etiquette and Youth Protection. What are some guidelines and best practices? Web meeting tips and tricks: Hardware and software ideas.		

Around the District

**South Mountain District Roundtable and OA chapter meeting -
St. Luke's Hospital Education Center
March 4, 2020**



Around the District

**South Mountain District Klondike Derby
Amundsen's Expedition to the South Pole. Camp Minsi
February 22, 2020**



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South Mountain District Klondike Derby Amundsen's Expedition to the South Pole. Camp Minsi February 22, 2020



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***South Mountain District Klondike Derby
Amundsen's Expedition to the South Pole. Camp Minsi
February 22, 2020***



Questions and Answers

Cub Scouting/Scouts BSA/Venturing/Sea Scouting Rank Advancement and the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The following questions regarding advancement have arisen as we deal with closures, cancellations, or other issues caused by the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Although there are difficulties and constraints, advancement can continue. Youth, parents, and leaders should work together to implement creative, common sense ways to facilitate advancement while adhering to the Guide to Safe Scouting and following the rules of Youth Protection training.

Please follow this link to the [Guide to Advancement \(GTA\)](#), which remains the primary source for information related to Scouts BSA advancement. It is referenced throughout the answers provided here.

Please send additional questions to advancement.team@scouting.org

All Scouting Programs

Q: How can advancement be tracked remotely?

A: Scouting units should use ScoutBook to record and track advancement.

To track advancement remotely, parents should:

- 1) Connect with their child's member profile via an invitation that the unit leader sends within ScoutBook.
- 2) Once a connection is made, the parent should use the Scouting app, found in both the App Store and Google Play, to stay connected with their unit.
- 3) The Scouting app provides parents the ability to report any advancement that was completed at home.

Go to <https://help.scoutbook.com> to learn more about how to start using ScoutBook and how to connect parents to their Scouts.

Cub Scouts

Q: May parents sign off on Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements?

A: Yes. Through July 31, 2020, parents and other adults in the Cub Scout's family, may sign off on Webelos and Arrow of Light requirements. We strongly encourage that parents use the Scouting App or ScoutBook to record completion of their child's requirements.

Q: If my den is behind in advancement due to COVID-19, can my Cub Scout continue to work on advancement through the summer?

A: Yes. Cub Scouts can continue to work on their current den's advancement through July 31, 2020. This is to provide any additional time a Cub Scout needs to complete their badge of rank; if they earn their badge of rank prior to July 31, 2020, they may advance to the next rank.

Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts

Q: May merit badge requirements or rank requirements be modified?

A: No. All requirements must be completed as written. If meetings or activities are canceled or limited, youth should continue to work on requirements as far as possible. By employing common sense and creative solutions, many requirements—even Scoutmaster conferences—can be fulfilled through videoconferencing or telephone calls.

Q: Can merit badge counseling or Nova/Supernova counseling be done using digital technologies like Zoom or WebEx?

A: Yes, registered merit badge counselors or Nova counselors/Supernova mentors may work with youth using digital platforms, ensuring that all youth protection measures noted in the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) and [BSA's social media guidelines](#) are in place. In addition to youth protection, the advancement guidelines in GTA Section 7 are required.

Q: May time missed due to canceled unit meetings count toward active participation requirements?

A: Yes. If youth are registered and in good standing, a disruption from COVID-19 virus can be the “noteworthy circumstance” that prevents participation. This policy has been in place for many years and is explained in GTA Topic 4.2.3.1.

Q: May time missed due to canceled unit meetings count toward position of responsibility requirements?

A: Yes. If youth are registered and unable to meet the expectations of their positions because of COVID-19 disruptions, then units may need to waive or rethink the expectations. Just as youth must not be held to *unestablished* expectations, they must not be held to expectations that are impossible to fulfill. See GTA Topic 4.2.3.4, “Positions of Responsibility,” with its six subtopics.

Q: Does the National Council grant extensions of time to complete rank requirements beyond the 18th birthday for the Eagle or 21st birthday for Summit or Quartermaster?

A: Yes, but only for the Eagle Scout rank as described in GTA Topic 9.0.4.0 or for Venturing Summit or Sea Scout Quartermaster as described in GTA Topic 4.3.3.0. Unit leadership must become familiar with the five tests under 9.0.4.0. The tests were designed to accommodate such obstacles as those presented by COVID-19 disruptions.

Q: Will youth who are not yet Life Scouts be allowed to apply for an extension to earn the Eagle Scout rank?

A: Extensions are considered only for Scouts who are Life rank. If, once a Scout achieves Life rank, it turns out that COVID-19 disruptions along the way have left them with insufficient time to complete Eagle requirements, then this may be cited when the time comes to submit an extension request.

Q: May local councils grant extensions?

A: Normally, that is not allowed. However, due to the current situation—effective immediately and through September 30, 2020—council Scout executives may grant extensions, or delegate authority to the Council Advancement Committee to grant extensions under the following limitations:

1. It can be established that COVID-19 disruptions were the only circumstances that delayed work on Eagle Scout/Summit/Quartermaster advancement requirements, such as the service project or merit badges. If any other causes were involved, the extension request must go to the National Council following the process outlined in the GTA.

2. Extensions shall only be granted to youth in Scouts BSA who have already achieved Life rank.
3. When the council receives a COVID-19-related request for a time extension, the council reviews the request and approves it if appropriate. A written response stating the outcome of the extension request must go to the youth. If approved, the notification must be attached to the youth's Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster rank application. For Eagle, the extension must not exceed 3 months from the youth's 18th birthday; for Summit/Quartermaster, the extension must not exceed 3 months from the youth's 21st birthday.
4. Upon turning 18, the Scout must submit a completed adult application and successfully complete YPT; their participant code will now be UP for SBSA or VP for Venturing and Sea Scouting.
5. Extension requests for more than 3 months beyond the youth's 18th/21st birthday must be sent to the National Service Center following the process outlined in the GTA.

Note: A "month" in BSA advancement is defined as a day from one month to the next. For example, March 5 to April 5.

The authority for councils to grant extensions is temporary, lasting only through Sept. 30, 2020.

Q: If youth have already received an extension, can they request additional time due to COVID-19?

A: Yes. Council Scout executives may grant extensions, or delegate authority to the Council Advancement Committee to grant extensions under the limitations listed above.

Q: What should be done while an extension request is being considered?

A: Youth should continue to work on advancement in so far as they are able—e.g., independently, or over the phone or videoconference—and at Scouting activities once they resume.

Q: Are extensions required when an Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster board of review must be delayed?

A: No. Councils may grant Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster boards of review up to six months after the youth's 18th/21st birthday. See GTA Topic 8.0.3.1, "Eagle Scout Board of Review Beyond the 18th Birthday."

See also, GTA Topic 8.0.1.6, "Boards of Review Through Videoconferencing."

Q: Are electronic or digital signatures acceptable for rank advancement or for the Eagle/Summit/Quartermaster packets/applications?

A: Yes. Electronic or digital signatures will be accepted through September 30, 2020.

Q: How can a youth continue to work on advancement requirements if they don't have internet or high-speed internet for videoconferencing?

A: Youth may take a picture of their completed activity/requirement and share the work with unit leaders. In keeping with Youth Protection Training policies, all communications from youth should be sent to at least two adults. Parents or guardians may send advancement work on behalf of their child.

Do you have time on your hands? Need training?

This is the perfect time for online training!

Log in to <https://my.scouting.org/> and click on BSA Learn Center on the right side of the page. There are scores of training modules to take. The Google Chrome browser is recommended. Get ahead of your training. program Safety, Hazardous Weather, STEM Scouts, BALOO, Succession Planning and more are available. Take some time to do some training.



Bryan on Scouting (<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/>) has several suggestions for Scouting in the age of coronavirus, including 58 merit badges Scouts can complete at home, Fun projects for kids that you can do from home. and Good Turns during the coronavirus: Acts of Scouting service you can do from home.

Speaking of Good Turns, because of the ongoing SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) novel coronavirus pandemic, there has been a 20% decline in blood collections as blood drives have been cancelled nationwide. This shortage is expected to get worse with a projected 30-40% decrease in blood collections in the next two weeks. If you are healthy, please consider being a blood donor.

The American Red Cross (<https://www.redcross.org/give-blood.html>) and Miller-Keystone Blood Center (<https://www.giveapint.org/blood-donor-center-locations/>) have multiple donor sites including a site at the LVH-CC campus at 1255 S. Cedar Crest (610-820-0962 / 800-B-A-DONOR) and 1465 Valley Center Parkway, Bethlehem PA 18017 (610-691-5850 / 800-B-A-DONOR).

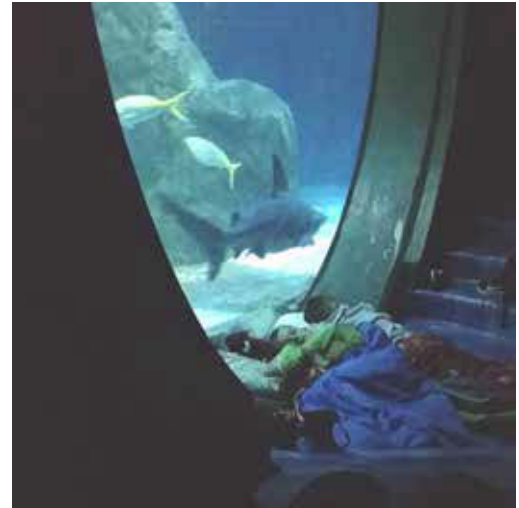
Scout Sleepovers at the Aquarium

Join the Center for Aquatic Sciences at Adventure Aquarium for **"Shark in the Dark"**, an awesome overnight experience for the whole family!

Visit sharks, sea turtles, and penguins after hours, then spend the night sleeping up close to some of our fishy friends. It's an experience your group will never forget!

Visit www.aquaticsciences.org or

Call 856-361-1025



Your overnight adventure includes:

- Free exploration Time (including Touch Tanks)
- 3D Theatre Show
- Shark Bridge
- Shark Talk
- Ocean Realm Show/Meet a Diver
- Sleeping throughout the Aquarium
- Gift shop
- Visit to Hippo Haven to see the hippos
- Light evening snack and Continental Breakfast





2020 SCOUT NIGHTS

SIGN-UP IS BY SCOUT UNIT ONLY FOR GROUPS OF 20+.
NO INDIVIDUAL TICKET ORDERS PLEASE.

FRIDAY
JUNE 26
7:05PM

OR

FRIDAY
JULY 31
7:05PM

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- PRE-GAME PARADE ON THE FIELD
- IRONPIGS GAME
- POST-GAME FIREWORKS!
- OVERNIGHT CAMPOUT ON THE FIELD
- MOVIE SHOWN ON THE VIDEOBOARD
- CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST IN THE MORNING
- COMMEMORATIVE SOUVENIR PATCH

Scout uniforms or activity uniforms are permitted. Be sure to sign up early.
If camping, please use free-standing tents only; no cots and no tent pegs allowed.

NEW FOR 2020!

WE'LL BE HOSTING THE FIRST EVER
IRONPIGS PINEWOOD DERBY!

4 CONVENIENT PRICING OPTIONS:

- \$18 Field Level Ticket, Sleepover
+ \$2 Ballpark Credit
- \$11 Field Level Ticket (Game-Only)
+ \$2 Ballpark Credit
- \$15 GA Ticket, Sleepover
+ \$2 Ballpark Credit
- \$8 GA Ticket (Game-Only)
+ \$2 Ballpark Credit



610-841-7447 ext. 2

Camp Minsi's Aquatics Staff has openings!



Aquatics on Stillwater Lake

Stillwater Lake is one of the greatest attractions at Camp Minsi. The 314-acre lake provides a variety of aquatic activities – including swimming, sailing, canoeing, rowing, kayaking, and paddleboarding.

The area is also home to our newly expanded Waterfront Interactive Zone which includes water trampolines, climbable icebergs, and more. A popular event at the Waterfront is the daily early-morning “Frigid Froggy” plunge into the lake. Another unique attraction is our giant “voyageur canoe” that can hold over 30 Scouts.

Merit badges offered at the waterfront include Swimming, Lifesaving, Small-boat Sailing, Canoeing, Rowing, and Kayaking.

Sea Scout Ship 940 accepting applications.



Sea Scout Ship 940



**Based on Stillwater Lake at
Camp Minsi in Pocono Summit, PA**



Interested in all things on the water, in the water, around the water and under the water? Then Sea Scouts is for you!

Visit us at Ship940.org for details on this exciting adventure program for young women and men, ages 14 to 20. Our next Meet and Greet meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd. Save the date, details to follow.

Questions? You can reach us at: contact@ship940.org

All Aboard! Train leaving Tobyhanna RxR Station !



Scouts in Motion Track

2020 STEM CAMP

July 26-29 Camp Minsi

That's right. Scouts taking the Railroading merit badge at this year's [STEM Camp](#) will be leaving the Tobyhanna train station at 10 am and ride to Scranton, PA and the Steamtown National Historic Park. During the train ride journey to and from the National Park, Scouts will be earning the Railroading Merit Badge. Quite a different way to earn a merit badge!

Three additional hands-on, on-site, Scouts in Motion merit badges can be earned as well:

- **AVIATION:** At Moyer Aviation facility at Pocono Municipal Airport
- **TRAFFIC SAFETY:** Offered by local law enforcement agencies
- **TRUCK TRANSPORTATION:** At the FedEx Freight Pocono Summit Facility

And it does not end here. Check out all the STEM merit badges available at the Minsi Trails Council STEM Camp!

Sign-up Today:

Get additional STEM Camp details and reserve your slot today at: CampMinsi.org/STEM

Background:

[STEM Camp](#) is an exciting summer camp experience for Scouts hosted at [Camp Minsi](#). This special 4-day camp provides in-depth and hands-on experiences to help participants explore careers, trade skills, scientific fields, and technology – all while having fun in a great camp environment.

During the week participants will have opportunities to work towards earning a variety of BSA skill awards and advancements – including merit badges, STEM Nova awards, and more! Experts and knowledgeable professionals in each field of study will help guide participants as they explore a variety of careers and subjects. Off-site field trips will also fill out the experience as Scouts visit and explore nearby coal mines, police stations, textile factories, farms, and more.

Participants attending individually (or with a buddy) will join a fully-staffed provisional patrol for the week, living and learning alongside youth with shared interests.

Questions? You can reach us at: campminsi@minsitrails.org

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DISTRICT COMMITTEE

DISTRICT KEY 3

District Chair	Matt Woodruff		chair@minsi-southmountain.com
District Commissioner	Eily Leicht		dc@minsi-southmountain.com
Senior District Executive	Arby Beisel	610-465-8558	Russell.Beisel@Scouting.org

DISTRICT CHAIRS

Activities Chair	Jim Swain	610-974-9150	jim.swain@rcn.com
Advancement Chair	Drew Draper	610-866-7875	acdrupe31@rcn.com
Advancement Cub	Michael Philipp		michaelphilipp9193@gmail.com
Advancement Scouts BSA	Charles "Chas." Chase	610-360-6334	ccjcpabsa@aol.com
Advancement Eagle	Mike Caffrey	610-295-8816	mikecee1062@yahoo.com
Advancement Merit Badge	Irene Arno	610-866-1810	nouna2u@aol.com
Camp Promotions Chair	Anthony Garguilo	484-554-5815	garguiloanthony@gmail.com
Scouts BSA Camp Promotions	OPEN		
Cub Camp Promotions	OPEN		
Day Camp Director	Chance Trapp	215-901-9078	cubpackfifty@gmail.com
Day Camp Director	Dawn Trapp	484-767-2783	d4001@hotmail.com
High Adventure Promotions	Jim Swain	610-974-9150	jim.swain@rcn.com
Chaplain	OPEN		
FOS Family Campaign	Sandy Pruitt	610-349-4209	sandypu@ptd.net
Finance Chair	OPEN		
Membership Chair	Patti Davis		
Membership Webelos to Scout Transition	Chris Ruhf	610-739-2408	bioteachcr@aol.com
Membership School Night	OPEN		
New Unit Chair	OPEN		
Nominating Chair	Michael E. Faccinetto	610-554-9151	mike@townsendins.net
OA Chapter Advisor	Dave Hay	610-861-4494	sayhay@ptd.net
Popcorn Kernel	Michael Philipp		michaelphilipp9193@gmail.com
Recognition Coordinator	Rose Dopsovic		
Scouting for Food Chair	Rev. David Hardin		
Scoutreach Liaison	Brian Mixtacki		
Training Chair	Tom Stalsitz	610-967-6508	smtraining@hotmail.com
Training Chair-Cubs	Donna Rex-Frantz	484-239-0152	EMTeagle1@gmail.com
Training Chair-Scouts BSA	OPEN		
Training Chair-Venturing	OPEN		
Webmaster	Bernie Suess	484-330-6915	bjsuess@suessweb.com
SMD Website	webmaster@minsi-southmountain.com		http://www.minsi-southmountain.com
Newsletter Editor	Bernie Suess	484-330-6915	newsletter@minsi-southmountain.com
COMMISSIONERS			
Roundtable	Bryan Kane		bryankane97@gmail.com

*Any Scouter interested in serving on the District Committee, contact Mike Faccinetto
or if interested in serving as a Commissioner, contact Tamie Swain.*