JUNE 2020 South Mountain District Newsletter

South Mountain District

MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL, BSA

NEWSLETTER... NEWS!!

If *you're not tired of staying in*, then you're not doing it right! It's time to step up and help others by sharing what you've learned. Whether it's virtual or something for when we get out, let us know.

Packs, Troops, and Crews—please submit articles and/or photos of your unit's past or recent activities or events for the District newsletter to Bernie Suess at newsletter@minsi-southmountain.com. Submit your information by the first day of each month for the following month's newsletter.

2020 DATES

Roundtable / OA Chapter **7:00pm**	1st Wednesday [2]
District Committee **7:00pm**	1st Monday [3]
Eagle Board & Project Review 7:00pm	3rd Tuesday [2]
District Commissioners 7:00pm	3rd Wednesday [3]
District Recharter Day	January 4, 2020 [11]
OA Family Banquet	January 4 [13]
Council Recognition Dinner	January 31 [1]
Klondike Derby	February 21-23 [4]
Trainer's EDGE	February 8 [17]
University of Scouting	March 14 [9]
Pinewood Derby	March 21* [11]
District Recognition Dinner	March 28 [15]
National Youth Leadership Training	April 17-19 and 24-26 [6]
Beaver Weekend	May 1-3 [5]
Beaver Weekend	May 8-10* [4]
Spring OA Weekend	May 29-31 [5]
OA - Section NE-5 Conclave	June 5-7 [12]
SM District Planning Conference	June 17 [TBA]
Day Camp	July 13-17 [14]
NOAC	August 3-8 [16]
Fall OA Weekend	September 11-13 [4]
Fall Camporee	October 2-4* [TBA]
Fall Family Camp	October 2-4 [TBA]
OA OctoberFest Weekend	October 9-11 [5]
Fall Cub Event	October 17-18* [92]
Scouting for Food	November 7 and 14
Wood Badge Reunion Dinner	November 1 [8]
Popcorn distribution	November 20-21 [TBA]

**indicates tentative date*

On Hold

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.
PLEASE NOTE - Online events are being added. Check the Minsi Trails calendar at http://www.minsitrails.org/event/calendar/ for the most current offerings.

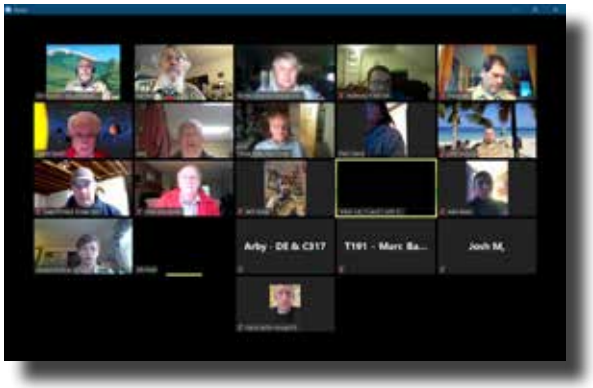
SOUTH MOUNTAIN DISTRICT ROUNDTABLE AGENDAS

Start time is 7:00 PM. Check email for details.

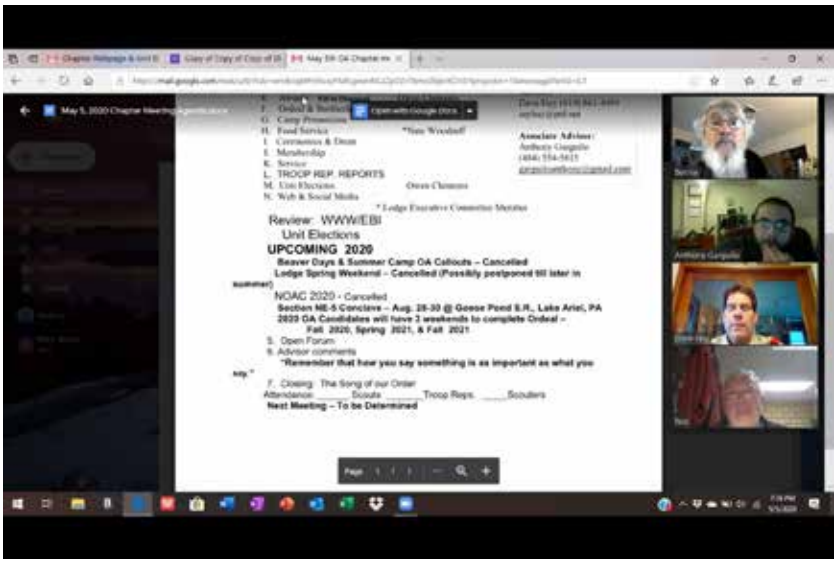
DATE	OVERALL PROGRAM	CUB SCOUTS (Program Leaders and Committee)	SCOUTS, BSA (youth and adults)	Disabilities & Differences JOINT SESSION
June 3	End of Year Picnic (virtual)	Holding an online crossover ceremony	TBD	

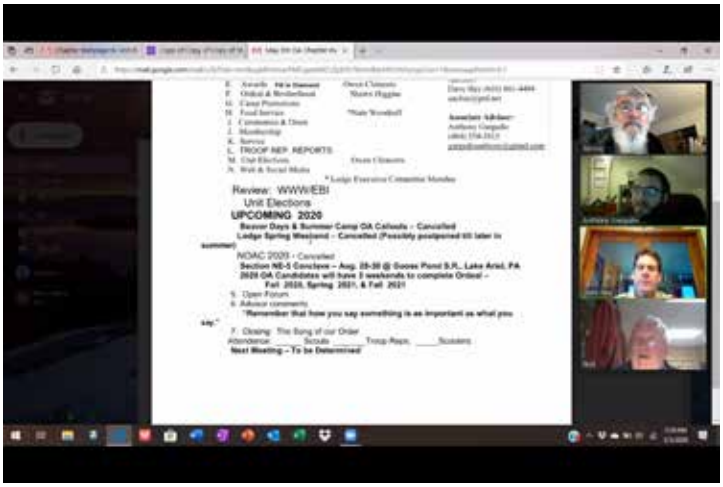
Around the District

South Mountain District Roundtable - Zoom Meeting
May 6, 2020



South Mountain District Order of the Arrow Chapter - Zoom Meeting
May 5, 2020





Sea Scouts launch virtual ship as part of stay at home Scouting

Sea Scout Ship 940 is planning its maiden “virtual” voyage this month, despite the area’s stay at home directive. Sea Scouts is the water-based adventure program of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). The program is open to girls and boys, ages 14 through 20 who are looking for adventure “on, in, around and under the water”. Sea Scout Ship 940 is the home of Minsi Trails Council's Sea Scout Program.

Ship’s maiden voyage will be on Saturday, May 23rd, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM via a zoom meeting. Additional details on Sea Scouts BSA and Ship 940 can be found at Ship940.org or on this YouTube video.

Ship 940 will be based on Stillwater Lake at BSA Camp Minsi, Pocono Summit, in the heart of the Poconos, the monthly gatherings will be all over - where ever there is adventure. The Ship will pursue monthly activities on area lakes, rivers, bays and ocean. Since the Ship 940's sponsor is the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 1502, Monroe County, we will have access to all the Auxiliary's youth-appropriate programs and also to nearby Coast Guard facilities, including in the New York Harbor area.

Sea Scouts are youth led by the Ship’s Officers:

Like other BSA programs, rank advancement opportunities also exist.

Sea Scout Ship 940 invites you to attend its virtual maiden voyage on May 23,at 10 AM.

Welcome Aboard!

JOIN SEA SCOUT SHIP 940 FOR A US COAST GUARD TECH TALK

Topic: **Marine Weather**

Date & Time: **Tuesday, May 26, 9 – 10 PM EDT**

Registration: Open to any Scout with an interest. You can register at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Y5DBm8vHR7CoE-9uZwHu7w

Presenter: Lieutenant John DeCastra, Coast Guard Rotary Wing Aviator stationed at Air Station Atlantic City NJ

Background: The Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary are working to bring a monthly STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) workshop to Sea Scouts. The workshop will take place on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2100 eastern / 2000 central / 1900 mountain / 1800 pacific / 1700 Alaska / 1500 Hawaii time and will last about an hour. The topics will be STEM-focused, and all will be tied to Sea Scout advancement requirements. However, any Scout or Scouter with an interest can join.

Sea Scout Advancement: Ordinary rank requirement #13 - Weather; Able rank requirement #13 – Weather.

Visit Ship940.org for details on these upcoming Ship 940 events:

- May 23rd Zoom meeting, 10-11:30 AM – TOPIC: Ship organization and event planning.
- June 20th Zoom meeting, 10-11:30 AM

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.

Online Resources during the Covid-19 Pandemic *(and beyond?)*

Minsi Trails has a lot of online programming to help you and your Scouts and more is on the way. See it at:
http://www.minsitrails.org/resources/virtual-programming-/

To find the most current information about Minsi Trails Council during the pandemic, go to
http://www.minsitrails.org/update/72747

Learn how to run an online meeting (thanks to the Northern New Jersey Council). It's at
http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/documents/How_to_Plan_and_Run_a_Virtual_Meeting.pdf

Find out about rank advancement during the pandemic at:
http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/documents/COVID_INFO.pdf

Many of you already know that *Bryan on Scouting* is a great resource and he has a good deal of information about doing Scouting online:
https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/

Den Leaders Facebook Group Helps with At Home Activities

Cub Scout Den Leaders (and other interested adult pack leaders) can share information on Minsi Trails Council's Den Leaders Facebook Private Group. Do a Facebook search for "Minsi Trails Den Leaders" and it should be first in the results. If you have a Facebook login, you can also find the group by visiting Minsi Trails Council's Facebbok page (**https://www.facebook.com/pg/minsitrailsbsa**) and clicking on the Groups link), Take a look. If it's of interest, ask to join. If you are having problems, contact me at webmaster@minsi-southmountain.com

If anyone has links or resources that they would like to share, contact me at **newsletter@minsi-southmountain.com**

Three part series from Northern New Jersey Council, recorded on YouTube and on their channel.

Part 1 - 'How to Run a Virtual Meeting' - **https://youtu.be/8vkAhD1C1tg.**
Part 2 – 'How to Plan/Run a Virtual DEN - **https://youtu.be/urQioxD3Afs**.
Part 3 – "Activities and Parent Involvement" - **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgNeZStXwIM**

Do you still have time on your hands? Still 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 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).

MAY 23 **Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmster Specific Training (TX)**
St. Paul's RC Church 920 S Second St Allentown, PA 18103 This course will provide Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters with the...

AUG 15 **2020 MTC Commissioner Conference**
2020 Minsi Trails Council Commissioner Conference When: August 15, 2020 Registration 8:30 am to 9:00 am Program from 9:00 am to 2:00...

SEP 19 **Basic Commissioner Training and Basic Round-Table Training**
Commissioner Training. 2 Courses offered, must select one. A trained Commissioner is an effective Commissioner! Commissioner...

SEP 25 **Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills - Council**
There is a mandatory pre-meeting at 7 PM on Tuesday Sept. 8th. at the Bushkill Township Fire Hall. 155 Firehouse Dr. Nazareth, PA...

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DISTRICT COMMITTEE

DISTRICT KEY 3

District Chair	Matt Woodruff		chair@minsi-southmountain.com
District Commissioner	Eily Leicht	610-442-4973	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	acdraper31@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	sandypru@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.