AUGUST 2020 South Mountain District Newsletter

South Mountain District

MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL, BSA

NEWSLETTER... NEWS!!

As we begin *to move forward again*, we need to share what works in our latest iteration of Scouting! Packs, Troops, and Crews—please submit articles and/or photos of what has worked for your unit (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 [ ]
OA Family Banquet	January [13]
Council Recognition Dinner	January [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

AUGUST 5 - District Roundtable - Louise Moore Park, Pavilion 2
A UGUST 20 - Council-wide Roundtable
AUGUST 29 - District Pine Wood Derby/Recruiting Event in Coopersburg
AUGUST 29 - Order of the Arrow, Virtual Conclave

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DISTRICT ROUNDTABLE AGENDAS

Start time is 7:00 PM, *unless otherwise noted

DATE	OVERALL PROGRAM	CUB SCOUTS (Program Leaders and Committee)	SCOUTS, BSA (youth and adults)
Aug 5 *6:30PM start Louise Moore Park, Pavilion 2	General updates	Brainstorming sessiom - Fall activities	Fall Activities discussion

South Mountain Roundtable

Join us on August 5th for the South Mountain Roundtable, in person, at Louise Moore Park.

We will be at Pavilion 2, which is on the west side of Country Club Road, from 6:30 to sundown.

Please note: Eat before arriving. We won't be cooking, or sharing dishes.

Bring your own mask and chair. We will be social distancing around the pavilion.

Since this is an in-person meeting there won't be a Zoom meeting or recording. Information from the meeting will be posted on the South Mountain website.

At the meeting we will discuss General News Items:

- New BSA Fees
- District Pine Wood Derby/Recruiting Event in Coopersburg on August 29th.
- National Jamboree update
- Re-chartering Changes
- New District Boundaries
- The Ship has Launched!
- Council Wide Roundtable 8/20 – Recruiting

During Breakout sessions Cub Packs and ScoutsBSA troops will be brainstorming ideas on how to have activities this fall. Come and share ideas and learn what other units are planning.

I look forward to trying to recognize each of you with your masks on!

Jim Swain

Roundtable ADC

YOU ARE INVITED – LIVE WATER EVENT – SUNDAY AUGUST 2nd

1 pm to 5 pm, at Camp Minsi's Aquatics Base, 106 Camp Minsi Road, Pocono Summit, PA

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO PERSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS. Come learn about Sea Scouts – the BSA's water-based high adventure program for young women and men ages 14 through 20.

Sea Scouts is not just "sea" or "ships". Its any water based activity the Ship's members (a "ship" like a Scout "troop") decide to experience:

- Whitewater rafting
- Tubing
- River canoeing
- Snorkeling
- Visiting a Coast Guard installation and ship tour
- Assisting the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary safety activities
- SCUBA
- Sailing
- Swimming
- And anything fun on, in around and under the water !

Sign up:

Please let us know if you are coming and the total number of family and friends coming by emailing us at: mailto:contact@ship940.org

Please bring a completed Sea Scout application with you in case you like what you see. They can be found at: ship940.org .

Already a Scout? There is no additional registration fees if you are already a Scout or Venturer.

Event Activities:

- Sail boarding
- Paddle boarding
- Spin rod fishing workshop (bring your rod if you have one)
- Kayaking – plastic
- Kayaking – whitewater competition style
- Canoeing – whitewater competition style 2-person

Agenda:

- 1 pm to 3 pm - Arrive and activity time
- 3 pm to 4 pm – Ship meeting
  - Elect Ship's officers:
    - Boatswain ("bow sun") – lead youth leader, like an Senior Patrol Leader in Scouts
    - Yeoman ("yo men") – the scribe
    - Purser ("purse sir") – the treasurer
  - Determine the September event. Options include:
    - Lehigh River dam release Whitewater rafting Sept 5 or 6 (http://www.poconowhitewater.com)
    - Delaware River / Water Gap Tubing or Canoeing any weekend (http://www.chamberlaincanoes.com/)
  - Discuss possible October events:
    - Radio Scouting Day & (world) Jamboree on the Air at Camp Minsi, Oct. 17 http://www.campminsi.org/registration/calendardetail.aspx?activitykey=2636428
- 4 pm to 5 pm – Optional. Open activity time.

VISIT US AT ship940.org or contact us at mailto:contact@ship940.org

BSA's Commitment to Act Against Racial Injustice

Dear Scouting family,

As our country reckons with racial injustice, we all must consider our role and our failures and commit to meaningful action.

The twelve points of the Scout Law that define a Scout are all important, but at this moment, we are called on to be brave. Brave means taking action because it is the right thing to do and being an upstander even when it may prompt criticism from some. We realize we have not been as brave as we should have been because, as Scouts, we must *always* stand for what is right and take action when the situation demands it.

There is no place for racism – not in Scouting and not in our communities. Racism will not be tolerated.

We condemn the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and all those who are not named but are equally important. We hear the anguish, feel the heartbreak and join the country's resolve to do better.

The Boy Scouts of America stands with Black families and the Black community because we believe that Black Lives Matter. This is not a political issue; it is a human rights issue and one we all have a duty to address. That is why, as an organization, we commit to:

1. Introducing a specific diversity and inclusion merit badge that will be required for the rank of Eagle Scout. It will build on components within existing merit badges, including the American Cultures and Citizenship in the Community merit badges, which require Scouts to learn about and engage with other groups and cultures to increase understanding and spur positive action.
2. Reviewing every element of our programs to ensure diversity and inclusion are engrained at every level for participants and volunteers by applying a standard that promotes racial equality and denounces racism, discrimination, inequality and injustice.
3. Requiring diversity and inclusion training for all BSA employees starting July 1 and taking immediate action toward introducing a version for volunteers in the coming months.
4. Conducting a review of property names, events and insignia, in partnership with local councils, to build on and enhance the organization's nearly 30-year ban on use of the Confederate flag and to ensure that symbols of oppression are not in use today or in the future.

These are our next steps but certainly not our last.

We will also continue to listen more, learn more and do more to promote a culture in which every person feels that they belong, are respected, and are valued in Scouting, in their community, and across America.

As a movement, we are committed to working together with our employees, volunteers, youth members, and communities so we can all become a better version of ourselves and continue to prepare young men and women to become the leaders of character our communities and our country need to heal and grow.

Yours in Scouting,

The Boy Scouts of America National Executive Committee

Dan Ownby *National Chair*	Roger Mosby *President and CEO*	Scott Sorrels *National Commissioner*
Devang Desai	Jack Furst	Skip Oppenheimer
Nathan Rosenberg	Alison Schuler	Michael Sears
Thear Suzuki	Brad Tilden	Jim Turley

Prepared. For Life.®

Restart Scouting Checklist

As always, the safety of our Scouts, volunteers, employees and communities is our top priority. This checklist outlines several minimum guiding protocols that adult leaders/volunteers must consider while working with local and state health departments, local councils, chartered organizations and Scouting families on when and how to resume meetings, service projects, camping and all other official Scouting activities.

If it is not practical to meet these minimal protocols, do not restart in-person activities.

S = Supervision

- ❑ Understand local and state guidance on preventing COVID-19 exposure.
- ❑ Engage your chartered organization and local council on necessary adjustments.
- ❑ Conduct the "before you gather" protocols.

A = Assessment

- ❑ Identify participants who fall under the CDC's group of higher-risk individuals. Notify all participants about the risks of participating since COVID-19 exposure cannot be eliminated.
- ❑ Verify that the planned activity, gathering or group sizes are not prohibited by local or state orders.

F = Fitness and Skill

- ❑ Review Annual Health and Medical Records and consider using a pre-event screening for all participants.

E = Equipment and Environment

- ❑ Verify that handwashing, hygiene and cleaning supplies are available and used properly.
- ❑ Monitor social distancing, interactions and sharing of equipment and food among participants.
- ❑ Monitor participants for changing health conditions.
- ❑ Use the "as you gather" protocols.

SAFE ≠ Risk-Free

As the response to the pandemic shifts to a state-focused, phased approach, the Boy Scouts of America advises local councils to consult with their local and state health departments, as well as local chartered partners, to implement appropriate protocols to help keep our members, volunteers and employees safe.

Precautions and mitigation strategies are important, but they cannot eliminate the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness when in-person activities resume.

People with COVID-19 may show no signs or symptoms of illness, but they can spread the virus. Some people may be contagious before their symptoms occur. The fact is that someone with COVID-19 may pass the required health screenings and be allowed into program activities.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. If you are in this group, please ensure you have approval from your health care provider prior to resuming in-person Scouting activities.

Every member, volunteer and family must evaluate their unique circumstances and make an informed decision before attending in-person activities.

We hope this information will be helpful as you make that choice.

For updates, please monitor
https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus

Before you gather:

❑ **Consult** your council and chartered organization to understand community standards and protocols in place.

❑ **Communicate** to all parents and youth that the Boy Scouts of America recommends that no one in the higher-risk category take part in person. Continue to engage virtually.

❑ **Communicate** that anyone who feels sick must stay home. If you become sick or develop symptoms, isolate yourself then go home and seek care.

❑ **Educate and train** all participants on appropriate social distancing, cleaning and disinfecting, hand hygiene and respiratory (cough or sneeze) etiquette before meeting for the first time. Periodically reinforce the behaviors as needed.

❑ **Before attending**, upon arrival and at least daily for longer events, all participants should be screened for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:

- **Cough**
- **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
- **Chills**
- **Repeated shaking with chills**
- **Muscle pain**
- **Headache**
- **Sore throat**
- **Loss of taste or smell**
- **Diarrhea**
- **Feeling feverish or having a temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit**
- **Known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19**

❑ **As appropriate**, participants should have face coverings available to wear when gathering or when in public areas or venues. Several coverings per person may be needed.

❑ **Communicate** that those who take part in person should avoid contact with higher-risk individuals for 14 days after the event.

As you gather:

❑ **Minimize group sizes**. Small groups of participants who stay together all day every day, remain 6 feet apart and do not share objects are at the lowest risk. Think of a den or patrol that does not mix or gather with other dens or patrols, with supervision that stays with the small group. ***Scouting's Barriers to Abuse always apply.***

❑ **Stay local** to your geographic area and groups for unit activities. If you must travel, limit mixing with others along the way.

❑ **Minimize mixing** with parents or siblings unless they are part of the unit activity. For example, the same parent picks up and drops off youth, and stays in the car. No guests or visitors who have not been through the pre-gathering protocols and screening should take part.

❑ **Have hand sanitizer**, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available for use at meetings, activities and campouts.

❑ **Minimize the use** of common areas and shared tools. If unavoidable, they should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between uses.

❑ **Develop dining protocols** (including but not limited to):
- No self-serve buffet meals or common water coolers.
- Use of disposable utensils, napkins, cups and plates.
- Clean and disinfect eating and cooking gear after each use.

❑ **Develop tenting protocols** for the group:
- Minimize use of fans or devices that stir the air.
- Campers should sleep head-to-toe in bunks or cots spaced as far apart as possible.
- Individual tents, hammocks and bivys may be considered.

❑ **During program activities**:
- Equipment that must be shared should be disinfected before and after each use.
- Where possible, assign activity-related protective equipment for the duration of an event to a single individual (life jacket, gloves, harness).
- Effective handwashing before and after each program area use.

❑ **In case of an injury or illness**, promptly report the incident, including COVID-19 exposures. Utilize Incident Reporting Resources, including COVID-19 instructions.

When you get home:

❑ **Avoid contact** with higher-risk individuals for 14 days.
❑ **Monitor** for any signs of illness for 14 days, and
❑ **Communicate** with your unit leadership should you develop symptoms.

FAQ for Scouting Units

Changes to State or County phases/stages may occur at any given period. Keep informed!

"Scouting" in the Pennsylvania Phases and New Jersey Stages.

- Use the Chartering Organization physical address to determine the County and State.
- Consult first with the Chartering Organization.
- Follow any and all restrictions the Chartering Organization has established.
- Follow any and all guidelines set forth by the State.

Guidelines for In-Person Unit Meetings During PA Phases and NJ Stages

- PA Yellow and NJ Stage 2: No more than 25 people in total can be in attendance, including Scouts, leaders, parents, and family members.
- PA Yellow and NJ Stage 2: Troops larger than 25 will not be able to meet as a whole and may consider certain patrol meetings on different nights or breaking the unit into smaller groups to stay under 25 people.
- PA Yellow and NJ Stage 2: Packs larger than 25 will not be able to have pack meetings. Emphasis should be placed on den meetings at different times.
- All PA Phases and NJ Stages: Disinfect/sanitize the meeting area before and after unit functions, including tables, chairs, doorknobs, restrooms, and other surfaces. Make sure you coordinate with your Chartered Organization or the meeting host location to follow all appropriate cleaning procedures.
- All PA Phases and NJ Stages: Require anyone who has or thinks they have any symptoms to forgo the meeting.
- All PA Phases and NJ Stages: Question everyone before they enter the meeting location regarding fever, chills, or other COVID-19 symptoms.
- All PA Phases and NJ Stages: Do not allow anyone with these symptoms to enter.
- All PA Phases and NJ Stages: Maintain social distancing (minimum of 6 feet).
- All PA Phases and NJ Steages: All attendees must wear face masks at any gathering.
- Hand washing facilities, such as restrooms, must be readily available for participants at a Scouting event or meeting. If hand washing facilities are unavailable, hand sanitizer should be readily available.
  The PA and NJ Department of Health and CDC recommend holding meetings outside if possible. It is easier to sanitize because there are fewer surfaces for the virus to live on. Social distancing and the use of masks is still required in the outdoors.
- **Unit camping is permitted in the green phase of the reopening of Pennsylvania or Stage 3 in New Jersey**.

  There is guidance from both in Gov. Wolf's and Gov. Murphy announcement on summer camps in the FAQ's.

  PA Department of Health – Summer Recreation, Camps and Pools

  New Jersey Department of Health – Summer Youth Camps

Minsi Trails Council Frequently Asked Questions 6/30/2020

Everyone must be made aware that even by following the above items, you cannot remove the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness while attending any unit activity. Some people with COVID-19 show no signs or symptoms of illness but can still spread the virus, and people may be contagious before their symptoms occur.

Q: Should we hold in-person Scouting meetings, outings, or activities?

A: With safety in mind and based on guidance from state and national health officials, units may resume in-person Scouting meetings, outings, and activities in counties that are in at least the "yellow" phase of the PA governor's plan and for NJ governor's Stage 2 plan. All Scout gatherings must comply with the guidelines in their State. Units do not have to resume in-person activities or events just because the stay-at-home restriction in their community has been lifted. The plan encourages continued use of telecommuting for businesses, and we would also recommend the use of virtual meetings during the Pennsylvania "yellow" phase and New Jersey "Stage 2".

Q: We are in the "PA Yellow" phase or NJ "Stage 2", but my Chartered Organization will not let us meet in-person. What can we do?

A: The Chartered Organization "owns" the unit and annually signs a Charter Agreement with the Minsi Trails Council. If a Chartered Organization is not comfortable with a unit resuming in-person Scouting activities even after moving to the "PA yellow" phase or the "PA green" phase, or "NJ Stage 2, or "NJ Stage 3" then the unit must follow the guidance of the Chartered Organization. This applies to meetings, service projects, fundraising, camping, trips, and any other Scouting activities and events whether they take place physically at the chartered organization or not. Similarly, as per the agreement, if a Chartered Organization wishes to allow a unit to reopen before the "yellow" phase, the unit must follow the council restriction and not hold in-person meetings or activities.

Q: If meeting locations are open, can units meet or do other in-person activities?

A: Unit in-person activities may resume under the PA and NJ Department of Health Guidelines and or Center for Disease control. If in-person activities take Scouts out of their immediate communities, unit leaders need to consider both the regulations of their county and regulations for wherever they intend to travel. For example, a unit in a "red" phase county is under a "stay at home" order. That unit should not hold in-person Scouting events or activities even if the event or activity is in a county with lesser restrictions. Conversely, a unit in a "yellow" or "green" phase should not participate in events or activities in counties that are still in the "red" phase. New Jersey identifies the entire state in Stages vs County restrictions.

Q: What do we do about Scouts' fundraising activities?

A: Fundraising activities may be held if those activities are conducted within the guidelines from the States Department of Health and or Center for Disease Control. Before units decide to do in-person fundraisers, please be mindful that there may be traditional locations that have changed their usual fundraising policies due to COVID-19.

Q: When will the Minsi Trails Council Office and Scout shop be open to the public?

A: Updates will be made at Minsitrails.org/update page.

Q: If my summer camp is canceled, can my unit get together with other units and have our own camp?

A: No. Chartering organizations play an essential role in the program and activities for their chartered units. Chartering organizations promote a well-planned unit program for the units they charter and encourage their units to have active outdoor unit programs. Chartering organizations are not authorized to plan and deliver programs for units outside of their charter. It is the role of the council to plan summer camps and the role of councils or districts to plan camporees and other outings during the year that give youth an opportunity to test their knowledge and skills in competitive events with other troops and/or patrols. When units with different chartered organizations do activities together, this becomes a district or council event and requires council approval. In fact, some states require such activities to be licensed. Should your troop or crew decide to do a long-term summer camping program for their own unit (Cub Scouts units are prohibited from this activity) please note that the Scouter Code of Conduct and relevant program safety and training requirements are still in place, e.g., Safe Swim Defense, Hazardous Weather, Wilderness First Aid, etc.

Q: How do I know as a Unit Leader what are the BSA guidelines and policies on Outdoor Programs?

A: All units must follow the Guide to Safe Scouting.

Q: What if I have other questions that have not been addressed here?

Unit Meetings or Charter Org Relationships

Pocono District

Greg Borowski - District Executive (610) 465-8557 l **Gregory.borowski@scouting.org**

Forks of the Delaware District

Michael LaPolla - District Director (610) 465-8560 l **michael.lapolla@scouting.org**
Tim Hands - Quality Unit Executive (610) 465-8564 l **timothy.hands@scouting.org**

South Mountain District

Arby Beisel - Sr. District Executive (610) 465-8558 l **russell.beisel@scouting.org**

Trexler District

Paul Oswald - Director of Field Service / COO (610) 465-8576 l **paul.oswald@scouting.org**

North Valley District

Christian Averill- District Director (610) 465-8573 l **Christian.Averill@scouting.org**
Mike Borgman - Quality Unit Executive (610) 465-8575 l **mike.borgman@scouting.org**

Anthracite District

Edward Schaefer - District Executive (610) 465-8571 l **edward.schaefer@scouting.org**

Minsi Trails Council Frequently Asked Questions 6/5/2020

FAQ for Scouting Units regarding Camping and MTC Owned Camp Properties

At this time, there is no unit camping until we reach the green phase of the reopening of Pennsylvania or Stage 3 in New Jersey.

Q: How do I know, as a Unit Leader what are the BSA guidelines and policies on Outdoor Programs?

A: All units must follow the Guide to Safe Scouting.

Q: What is the BSA's policy on social distancing in a tenting environment when camping?

A: Camping should only take place following the guidelines from the States Department of Health and or Center for Disease Control. There is no formal national policy on social distancing in tents. The Minsi Trails Council strongly recommends following the CDC guidelines as it relates to camping. There is no prohibition on tenting alone if logistics can accommodate that request. As always, all BSA youth protection policies and the Guide to Safe Scouting must be followed.

Q: Can a troop or crew unit reserve a short-term campsite at either Camp Minsi or Trexler Scout Reservation?

A: The Minsi Trails Council will establish an opportunity for units to reserve a short-term campsite at either Camp Minsi or Settlers Camp. Akelaland Camp will be closed for rentals during this time. The reservation opportunity will open in June for available weekend dates (arrival Friday – Departure Sunday) in July and August. Camp sites will be limited to a certain few and available on a first come first serve basis through the Minsi Trails Council reservation system.

- Only available to Minsi Trails Council Chartered Units.
- Short Term Camping is found under the Camping tab at Minsitrails.org
- Each rental must be a paid before arrival
- Restricted areas will be established.

Q: The above language indicates reserve, what does that mean?

A: Through the online rental facility system, a unit will be able to reserve a site for a weekend in July and August. Recognizing this in only a temporary reservation. Ability to physically act upon the temporary reservation will be if the Unit Charter address (County) and Minsi Trails Council Properties (County) meet the Green Phase. Once onsite access is permitted in the Green Phase, Minsi Trails Council will confirm with the registration owner they are cleared to go.

- To be cleared to go:
    - For Pennsylvania units: Both the Unit Charter address (County) needs to be Green and MTC Camp properties (County) needs to be Green.
    - For New Jersey units: Both the Unit Charter address needs to be in Stage 3 and the MTC Camp properties (County) needs to be Green.

Q: What types of facilities will be available during the July and August rental period?

A: In support of PA Guidelines for the Green Phase. Only MTC pre-determined campsites; with latrines and access to running water will be available. Camp sites do not have electricity. The overall grounds are available for Hiking, Fishing, and Patrol/Unit activities.

Q: Will equipment or supporting facilities will be available for use?

A: No. All summer camp program equipment, watercraft, shooting sports ranges will not be available for use. Units are not permitted to bring watercraft onto property at any time. Rental of the 8 Canoe Pack or 10 Canoe Pack through the Camp Minsi rental system will be available during this time. Rental use of the Canoe Packs requires Safe Swim Defense and Safety Afloat are met by the unit.

Q: Will we be able to use the swimming areas at camp?

A: Swimming is prohibited due to crowd control of social distancing measures.

Q: Will buildings and cabins (indoor quarters), Shower Houses, Dining Halls or Kitchens available.

A: No. Due to various COVID-19 protocols, these facilities will not be available. Dining Halls or other assigned structures will be made available in emergency situations only.

Q: Is a unit allowed to reserve a Monday thru Friday morning long-term campsite reservation in July and August?

A: No. Minsi Trails Council Properties will be closed to unit rentals Monday through Thursday.

Q: Will the Canvas walled tents be on the frames and platforms in the camp sites?

A: No, units will need to bring their own tents and equipment.

Q: Will refrigeration be available?

A: No, Kitchens are closed due to COVID-19 and are in the process of maintenance.

Q: Are Campmasters needed for the Summer?

A: Yes, please reach out to diane.lariar@scouting.org

Q: Is a unit allowed to go for a day trip on one of the camp properties?

A: No. Only during a Council established activity or events.

Q: Can I or my unit or service group or OA Lodge/Chapter go to camp to provide daily service or maintenance during the Monroe County phases?

A: Yes, only in the Green Phase with pre-approval and coordination from the Camp Rangers for Camp Minsi or Trexler Scout Reservation.

Q: Will there be any programs, run by staff during the summer months of camping?

A: No. However, if the phases permit Council run activities are possible. As an example, Cub Scout Saturday Fishing or Hiking – pre-registration required. These activities would be simply providing access to the property to do the activity vs a coordinated program.

Q: What if I have other questions that have not been addressed here?

Camping or Camp Properties

- Contact the camping department at Diane.Lariar@scouting.org

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North Valley District

Christian Averill- District Director (610) 465-8573 l **Christian.Averill@scouting.org**
Mike Borgman - Quality Unit Executive (610) 465-8575 l **mike.borgman@scouting.org**

Anthracite District

Edward Schaefer - District Executive (610) 465-8571 l **edward.schaefer@scouting.org**

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=BgNeZStXwlM**

You have time, how about taking some training?

Now is the 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).

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 **BALOO - Council**
Trexler Scout Reservation - Akeleland Arrival and tent set-up 5:30 - 7 PM. Please note: No children are allowed at the...

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.