



OCTOBER 2020 South Mountain District Newsletter

South Mountain District

MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL, BSA



NEWSLETTER... CHANGES...

You've likely heard of the changes to the districts. Although it will have little or no effect on our daily unit Scouting activities, it will mean significant changes at the district and council levels. It's still a good time to share articles and/or photos of your unit's 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]
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 27 [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]
District Recognition Brunch	October 3 [check]
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

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

OCTOBER 2 to 4 - Cub Scout Fall Family Weekend, Trexler SR

OCTOBER 3 - South Mountain District Brunch, Upper Saucon Township Community Park

OCTOBER 10 - OA Lodge OctoberFest Weekend (Day), Trexler Scout Reservation

OCTOBER 22 - Minsi Trails Council Rechartering Roundtable, Online (ZOOM)

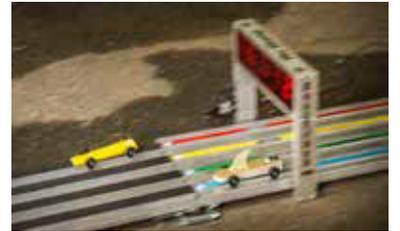
SOUTH MOUNTAIN DISTRICT ROUNDTABLE AGENDAS

Start time is 7:00 PM

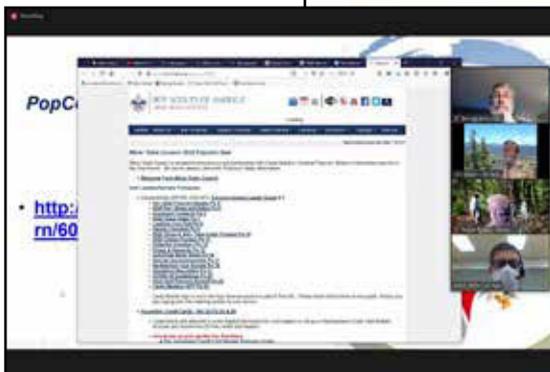
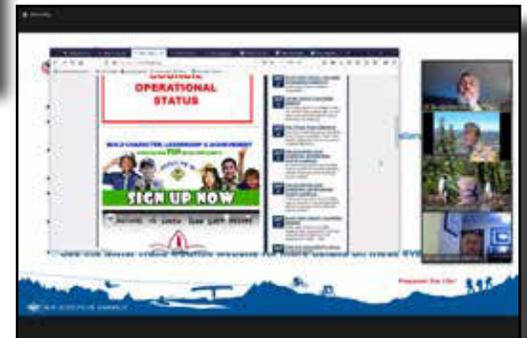
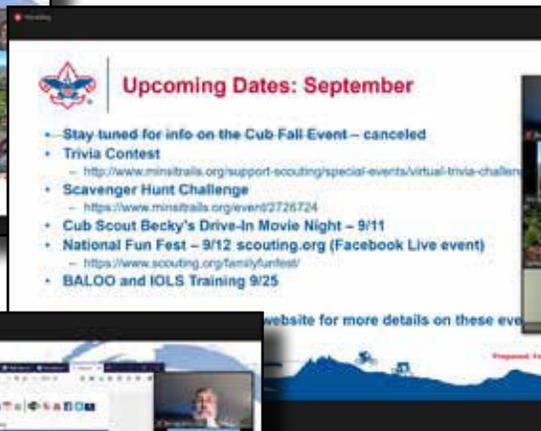
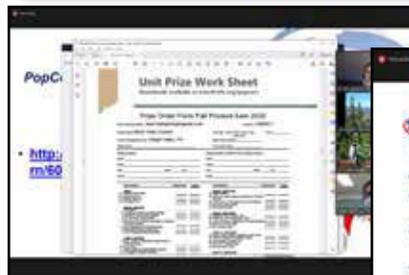
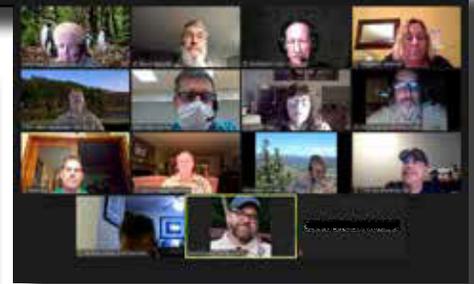
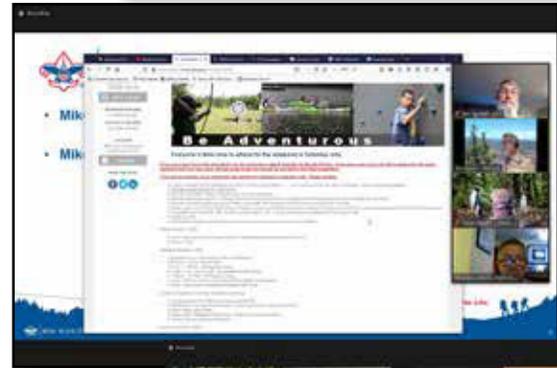
DATE	OVERALL PROGRAM	CUB SCOUTS (Program Leaders and Committee)	SCOUTS, BSA (youth and adults)
October 7	Training	Training new leaders and other resources	

Around the District

***South Mountain District Pinewood Derby - Southern Lehigh Living Memorial Park
August 29, 2020***



South Mountain District Roundtable, September 7, 2020



CHANGES

A few years ago I bought my first tablet computer. It took a little while to get used to it, but once I did I found myself using quite a bit. But over the years, it began to slow down. Easy tasks were taking frustratingly long. I saw a newer

version of the tablet with a faster processor, more memory and storage, a larger screen, and quite a bit less than I paid for the original tablet. Of course, I had to order it.



When the new tablet arrived a few days later, I opened the package anxiously. After charging it for a few hours, I turned on the tablet and was immediately disappointed. Though it was the same operating system (just a later version), the interface was changed and the hardware had all the controls in slightly different places. I couldn't find anything, even having trouble figuring out where the volume was.

Darn. This wasn't the tablet I wanted. I wanted a faster version of the original tablet. Faster, but with the same controls and interface. Of course, they didn't make a tablet like that anymore.

Changes can be frustrating, especially when you are comfortably used to something. We all hate changes that make things worse, even when they promise to make things better. But even when the changes really do make things better, they can still be baffling as we try to figure the best way to take advantage of them.

For as long as most of us have been in Scouting, Minsi Trails Council has been comprised of six districts—South Mountain, Forks of the Delaware, North Valley, Trexler, Pocono, and Anthracite. That's going to change on January 1, 2021 as those six districts are retired and will be replaced by five county-based districts—Northampton, Lehigh, Warren, Monroe, and Carbon—Luzerne. As most of us know, that process has begun. We are many months into the planning of the transition. The goal is to make it as seamless as possible for all the volunteers, leaders, parents, and scouts. And it probably has the least meaning to the units. Parents and most volunteers, as well as scouts, will notice little or no difference. I'm sure you've talked to parents and asked what district they're in only to be told "Minsi Trails," if they offer an answer at all.

Though for some of us the change seems sudden and unwarranted, it is anything but that. Council has considered this for several years and, due to many of the current circumstances, this is the time that chose us.

The Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, observed, "The only constant in life is change." We can't prevent change. All we can do is accept it, embrace it, or avoid it. And avoiding it doesn't stop change, it just means that we aren't there to see it. We are much better off accepting and embracing change, doing our best to make it the most positive change that we can.

Soon enough, those of us in South Mountain will join others in the new Northampton or Lehigh Districts. The same will happen to volunteers in the other districts, some of whom will be joining along with us. Minsi Trails has long provided a quality Scouting program for our youth, and with our help it will continue. It's a change in name, not program. I urge you to step up and help make this change a positive one, so that next time there is change those volunteers will look back and say, "That's how it should be done."

By the way, once I got used to the new tablet I was using it faster and better than ever.

JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION & RECOGNITION BRUNCH!

Saturday, October 3

Pavilion opens at 9am, Meal at 9:30am, Program concludes at 11:30am

**Location: Upper Saucon Township Community Park
David M. Petzold Memorial Pavilion, 3231 Preston Lane, Bethlehem 18015**

\$23/person

Save the date for this special morning to honor and celebrate those who make a world of difference in our Packs, Troops, and Crews! This is way to say thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers for all the work you do for the Scouting community.

Don't forget to RSVP so we can count you in for the morning of good food, fun, and fellowship with fellow Scouters and Volunteers! Pre-registration is required; walk-ins will not be accepted.

Please RSVP online by September 26:

<http://www.minsitrails.org/event/2020-smd-annual-volunteer-appreciation-recognition-dinner/2642578>

A silent auction will be held from 9 to 10am, with any proceeds used to fund the free attendance of our Award of Merit and Fellowship Award recipients, and for the benefit of our District.

Please bring any Scouting memorabilia or other items that you are willing to donate to Anthony Garguilo at his home or at the Council office prior to the event. Contact Anthony with any questions @ garguiloanthony@gmail.com or (484) 554-5815.

- This is a mask-mandatory **LIVE** event. Please respect social distancing and other people's comfort with being in a group.
- Please bring your own camp chairs! We will have limited seating in the picnic tables under the pavilion.
- Refunds will not be issued for prior registrations -- units are asked to identify substitute Scouters in place of any absences/vacancies.





Radio Scouting Day and Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

Camp Minsi Parade Field, Saturday, October 17th, 2020

Come learn about amateur radio. Talk to Scouts around the world on radio waves as part of World Scouting's Jamboree on the Air event. Bounce radio signals off the moon, track satellites, hunt the fox (a hidden radio transmitter) in the woods.

This is a COVID-19 friendly, all outdoor event, rain or shine, with social distancing and mask wearing in effect. However, space is limited to 150 participants to ensure we can maintain small group activities.

The cost is \$8 per person which includes, in lieu of a patch, a custom Radio Scouting Day face mask instead !

Click here to register: <http://www.campminsi.org/registration/calendardetail.aspx?activitykey=2636428>

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 Facebook 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>

For recruiting and membership help, visit Minsi Trails' Membership and Marketing Hub at <https://www.minsitrails.org/resources/membership-marketing-hub/>

Video from the recent council-wide roundtable on recruiting youth and adults will soon be available on the Membership and Marketing Hub.



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.



2020 BSA National Membership Fees

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE

EFFECTIVE



FOR ALL
NEW
MEMBERS

EFFECTIVE



FOR ALL
RENEWING
MEMBERS
(RECHARTER)

\$66/YR

Participants in kindergarten through age 20.



\$42/YR



Participants age 10 - 20.

\$42/YR



All registered adult volunteers in unit and non-unit positions. (Volunteers with multiple registrations will continue to pay for only one position).

NEW-MEMBER JOINING FEE

EFFECTIVE



ONE-TIME

\$25

TO JOIN

Same flat fee no matter when you join during the year. (no prorating)
New members pay joining fee in addition to membership fee.



No joining fee for adult volunteers, Exploring participants, participants previously registered in any BSA program, or those transferring from one program to another.

UNIT RECHARTER FEE

EFFECTIVE



\$75/YR

For all new and rechartering units.

This is a great time to do training!

Online training will help your adult and youth leaders

SEP [Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills - Council](#)

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Please be advised that due to current circumstances this course has undergone modifications to ensure the health and safety of participants...

SEP [BALOO - Council](#)

26

Please be advised that due to current circumstances this course has undergone modifications to ensure the health and safety of...

OCT [MTC Rechartering Roundtable - ONLINE EVENT](#)

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Zoom meeting link will be posted closer to the event. We will talk about the following information: 1. What to be checking BEFORE recharter day 2....

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.

If you make sure your unit BeAScout pin is updated by September 30, 2020, your unit will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$500 Scout Shop Gift card, or one of five \$100 Scout Shop Gift cards. See the full rules at <https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/UpdatePinSweepsRules.pdf>.

You can also learn a lot more at ScoutingWire (<https://scoutingwire.org/>). The latest news about Scouting is always posted there first. It's the best way to keep up to date about Scouting.



Pack 352's flag ceremony opens their remote control NASCAR race.

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	acdramer31@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		
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	Dan Longo		longodg@yahoo.com

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