



MAY 2020 South Mountain District Newsletter

South Mountain District

MINSI TRAILS COUNCIL, BSA



NEWSLETTER... NEWS!!

Pandemic! It's a word we're thoroughly familiar with now, even if we weren't before our current circumstances. And yet we strive to teach our Scouts how to deal with adversity. Now is the time to step up and many units and leaders are. Help others by sharing what you've learned.

Please submit material 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

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.

MAY 15 to 17 - Camp Minsi Beaver Weekend (tentative)

MAY 22 to 24 - Settlers Camp Beaver Weekend (tentative)

June 12 to 14 - Akelaland Beaver Weekend (tentative)

SOUTH MOUNTAIN DISTRICT ROUNDTABLE AGENDAS

Online Roundtable meetings are being held; check your email for details

Start time is 7:00 PM

DATE	OVERALL PROGRAM	CUB SCOUTS (Program Leaders and Committee)	SCOUTS, BSA (youth and adults)	Disabilities & Differences JOINT SESSION
May 6		Roles of Den Chiefs	Recruiting Den Chiefs	TBD
June 3	End of Year Picnic?	TBD	TBD	TBD

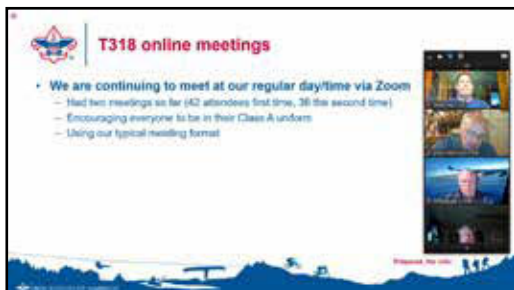
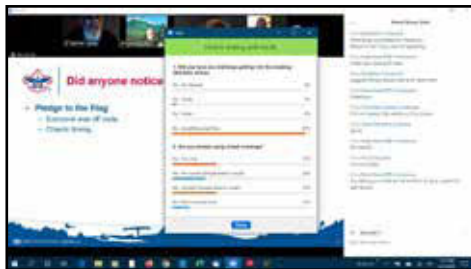
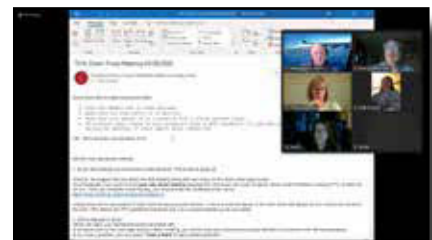
Around the District

South Mountain District Roundtable - Zoom Meeting April 1, 2020

Whether you attended the April Roundtable, or especially if you missed, a PDF of notes from the roundtable is available online at:

http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/documents/roundtable/April_2020_Online_Roundtable.pdf

Notes from all roundtables will be available at <http://www.minsi-southmountain.com/roundtable.htm>



Commissioner's Corner

Given the strange times we find ourselves in with social distancing still in effect, I can see it may be some time before I get to meet all of you in person.

With that in mind, I thought a written introduction might be helpful. My name is Eily Leicht, I moved here to the US from Ireland back in 1995. With all relatives and friends so far away, Scouting soon became our extended family.

I saw firsthand how Scouting helped guide and shape my son into the amazing young man he is today. I continued as a Scouter long after he Eagled out. As an Assistant Scoutmaster I became an "Awesome Antelope" in the 2007 Wood Badge course. I have been very fortunate to participate on Wood Badge staff several times since then.

Shortly after my son left our troop in Pen Argyl, I became their Scoutmaster. The importance of training for both youth and adults was very important to me. I was constantly impressed by the maturity and leadership ability of the boys once they had completed National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT). I soon found myself serving on the NYLT Staff and was fortunate to serve as NYLT Scoutmaster in 2016 and 2017.

I am an ASM for Scouts BSA Girls Troop 2019 in Palmer, and also a leader in Crew 1919 in South Mountain where I was asked to step up and take the role as District Commissioner for South Mountain District.

I would like to thank Senior District Executive Arby Beisel, Council Commissioner (and previous South Mountain District Commissioner) Tamie Swain, and Assistant District Commissioners Bernie Suess and Bill Brugger for helping me as I make this transition. The commissioners have been very engaged in helping their units find ways of providing a quality program experience for their youth despite the limitations Social Distancing demands.

On that note, we are always looking for new faces to join us! If you are interested in becoming a Commissioner or finding out more about what the role entails please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Tel 610-442-4973. Email dc@minsi-southmountain.com

I look forward to meeting all of you in person soon,
YIS Eily Leicht



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

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.

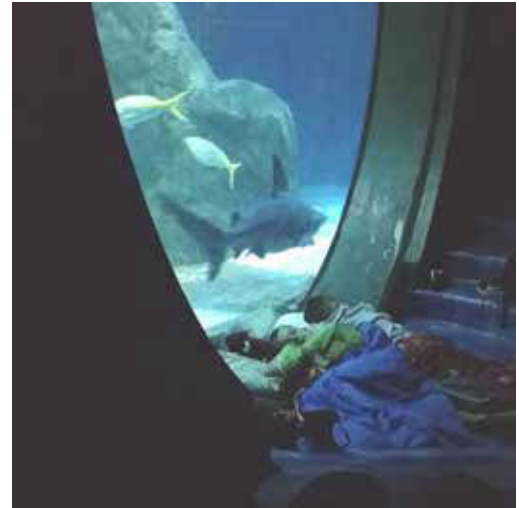
Scout Sleepovers at the Aquarium

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 you’re 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



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 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).

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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Roundtable	Bryan Kane		bryankane97@gmail.com

COMMISSIONERS

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