

METACOMET NEWSLETTER

[HTTPS://WWW.WMASOUTING.ORG/METACOMET](https://www.wmascouting.org/metacomet)

Scouts BSA

On February 1, 2019 the Boy Scouts of America, for the first time in its 109 year history, began admitting girls into its most iconic program. Within the first few days of the transition from the Boy Scouts to the Scouts BSA program name and the additional of troops for girls, the Boy Scouts of America added over 600 new units and more than 4,300 new members.

The National Executive Committee of the BSA has approved a special temporary transition rule to allow all youth (girls and first-time joining boys) over 16 but not yet 18 years of age on 02/01/19, who join Scouts BSA in 2019 to earn their Eagle badge should they "diligently and promptly" complete all requirements. More specific information is available from your District Key 3 members.

Worldwide, the Boy Scouts of America now offers seven diverse youth programs to both girls and boys: Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts, STEM Scouts, Exploring, and Learning for Life. Official BSA prepared branding materials (email templates, flyers, postcards, posters, social media images, Troop cards, videos, etc.) can be downloaded here—<https://scouting.webdamdb.com/bp/#/>

Guidance has been provided for us all to help respect the rights and programs all youth-serving organizations, including the Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA).

- ◇ The GSUSA has prohibited co-branding of GSUSA and BSA
- ◇ Do not use programs, marks, logos, uniforms, or images of other youth-serving organization
- ◇ Do not combine any of the above items with those of the BSA, such as creating a name/title for a youth who has earned recognitions in two different youth-serving programs
- ◇ Never put the word "girl" immediately before the word "scout" when referring to a girl member of the BSA
- ◇ Refer to our Scouts BSA units as:
 - ◇ Scouts BSA girl troops; Scouts BSA boy troops
 - ◇ Troops for girls: Troops for boys
 - ◇ Girl Troops: Boy Troops
- ◇ Focus on our four AIMS:
 - ◇ Character Development
 - ◇ Citizenship
 - ◇ Leadership (recently officially added)
 - ◇ Personal Fitness

In the event we are contacted by the news media, the Boy Scouts of America asks that we not speak for or on behalf of other youth-serving organizations and to please send ALL BSA media inquires to PR@scouting.org for official commenting.

Upcoming Dates:

Commissioner Meeting, Feb 7, 6:30pm, Hatfield Elementary School, 33 Main St, Hatfield

District Committee Meeting, Feb 7, 7pm, Hatfield Elementary School, 33 Main St, Hatfield

Ice Fishing Festival, Feb 9, 9am, Tolgy Wood: Chesterfield Camp

Roundtable: Duty to God—Joint Cub Scout/Boy Scout, Feb 14, 7pm, Hatfield Elementary School, 33 Main St, Hatfield

WHOA, Feb 16, Moses

Commissioner Meeting, Mar 7, 6:30pm, Hatfield Elementary School, 33 Main St, Hatfield

District Committee Meeting, Mar 7, 7pm, Hatfield Elementary School, 33 Main St, Hatfield

Roundtable, Mar 14, 7pm, Hatfield Elementary School, 33 Main St, Hatfield

Small Pack Pinewood Derby, Mar 16, South Hadley

Metacomet Pinewood Derby, Apr 6, Hampshire Mall, Hadley

Merit Badge University & Adult Training, Feb. & Mar. 23th, Herter Hall, UMass

Scouts BSA Troops for Girls Planning Meeting, Feb. 23th, 1pm, Herter hall, UMass

District Awards and Recognition Dinner, May 9, 6pm, Bluebonnet Diner, Northampton

Boy Scout Spring Camporee, May 17-19, Franklin County Fairgrounds

Family Camping Weekend, Jun 8, Moses

24th World Scout Jamboree 2019, Jul 22-Aug 2, West Virginia

Making Metacomet District GREAT!!!!

Don Carlson, District Executive
Donald.Carlson@scouting.org

Bob Walz, Interim District Chairman
rewalz57@gmail.com

Greg Williams, District Commissioner
greg.allen.williams@gmail.com

Upcoming In-Person Trainings:

Feb 23 & Mar 23—Adult Training at Merit Badge University

Apr 27-28—Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (Boy Scout)

Jun 7-9—Certified Angling Instructor Course

Jun 22-28—National Youth Leadership Training

Sep 6-8 & Oct 12-14—Wood Badge Course N2-234-19

<https://www.wmascouting.org/calendar/452/Training>

BSA Miscellany

- Leader Award Nomination are now open for presentation at the May 9th Metacomet District Award and Recognition Dinner at the Bluebonnet Diner in Northampton. Nomination forms are available for download on the [Metacomet District Webpage](#) as well as at Roundtable or from any member of the Metacomet District Key 3.
- Printing Unit Charters: Councils will not be automatically printing unit charters. Using the my. Scouting.org Organization Manager, unit, district and council Key 3 now have the ability to print unit charters by clicking on the "membership card" icon.
- On March 1, 2019, the online Youth Protection Courses will be replaced with an updated version.
 - If you have started—but not completed: You must complete by 01/28, or any progress you have made will not transfer, due to the new learning plan.
 - If you HAVE already completed : You WILL NOT be affected and you DO NOT have to retake the training when the March 1, 2019 course is released.
- The Guide to Safe Scouting was updated online in January 2019. A side-by-side comparison of the May 2018 and January 2019 versions is available online at <https://draftable.com/compare/CsvEWQrmZNFZ>. Most changes are formatting or language related to the transition to Scouts BSA. More significant changes:
 - Accommodations: Youth sharing tents **should must** be no more than two years apart in age
 - Complete rewrite of chapter XII. Animal and Insect Hazards
 - Updated appendix Event Safety Checklist
- Advance Notice: 2020 Western Mass Council insurance fees will increase from \$4 to \$7. More information is available online at www.wmascouting.org/offices
- Second Time Around Announcements:
 - Now **four**, not **three** BSA Aims: Character Development, Citizenship, Personal Fitness, and Leadership
 - Adult Supervision Update: Guide to Safe Scouting www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/yp-faqs/#as
 - **Q:** The Barriers to Abuse say that there must be two registered adults present for all Scouting activities and meetings. Does that include merit badge counseling? Fund-raising events?
 - **A:** Yes. However, the parent or legal guardian of the Scout may serve as the second adult. This parent or legal guardian does not have to be a registered leader.
 - 1-844-SCOUTS1 (1-844-726-8871): As part of its "Scouts First" approach to the protection and safety of youth, the BSA has established a dedicated 24-hour helpline to receive reports of known or suspected abuse or behavior that might put a youth at risk. When to use it:
 - Anytime you believe a youth has been harmed or their safety and wellbeing is at risk, and you cannot immediately reach your Scout executive or local council.
 - If a Scout is bullied because of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or disability, and local help is unable to resolve the problem.
 - If someone is at immediate risk of harm, always call 911.

