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Cherokee Scouter

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 Boy Scouts of America*

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Fall Popcorn Sale – New Sale Options

Would your unit like to do “Show and Sell” or “Show and Deliver” Popcorn this year? **If so, the Council must approve your initial order on or before August 18, 2014.**

If you need more information regarding these new sale options, please call the Scout Service Center and speak to Kim (Osage Hills District) or Doug (Grand Lake District).

Complete information about the Fall Popcorn sale, including the traditional “take orders” sales option, will be available at the September Roundtables (September 7 for the Osage Hills District and September 14 for the Grand Lake District).

Eagle Scouts

Only 5 percent of the Scouts have achieved Eagle rank, Cherokee Area Council ranks above the national average in Eagle rank achievement.

Our congratulations go out to the following Scouts who have achieved Eagle rank in the last month:

- Cole Rolfson – Troop 103 (fencing Indian grave site)
- Robert Ehrie – Troop 57 (DCCSAN play yard)
- Trevor Hayes – Troop 55 (Memorial Garden in honor of Steve Wright)
- Jessie Lemon – Troop 777 (Painted signs in Delaware)
- JD Baney – Troop 777 (Paint fire department signs on floor)
- Gary Warlick Jr.– Troop 8 (Painting Salvation Army parking lot)
- Tyler Dixon – Troop 2000 (Cornerstone Community Church landscaping project)



Cherokee Area Council is proud of these Scouts.

2014-2015 Council Calendar

The 2014-2015 Council calendar is now available. New events planned for the next Scouting year include:

- Cub Scout Belt Loop Festival – Sept. 20, 2014
- Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge – Sept. 20, 2014
- Electronics Merit Badge – Oct. 18, 2014
- Advanced Climbing Instructor Training – Natural Site – Nov. 8, 2014
- Scouting University – February 7, 2015

The 2014-2015 calendar also includes the following training events:

- Cub Leader Training - Sept. 18, 2014
- SM/ASM Training – Oct. 7-8, 2014 or Oct. 14-15, 2014
- First Aid/CPR – Oct. 23, 2014
- SM/ASM Training – Nov. 1, 2014
- Wilderness First Aid Training – Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 2015
- IOLS/BALOO/OWLS Training – March 27-28, 2015
- Wood Badge – April 10-12 and April 24-26, 2015



The calendar is available as a single-page Excel spreadsheet and can be downloaded from the council web site at <http://www.cherokeebesa.org>

September is Scout Month at Bass Pro

We are pleased to announce the 2014 Boy Scout Month at Bass Pro Shops; “Providing a Compass for Life!” This promotion will last the entire month of September.

Visit the Merit Badge Class Schedule and call Customer Service at the Bass Pro Shop to register for each class. Class sizes are limited.

[Merit Badge Class Schedule](#)

Council Camporee

When: September 5-7

Where: Camp McClintock

Who: Troops/Teams/Venturers are invited to join this activity. (Submit Sign-up Sheet to office).

Webelos Dens are invited to join and camp, provided they are camping with a Troop. Camping Webelos will camp as a Den with Pack Leadership, and accompanied by a parent/guardian. (Submit Sign-up Sheet to office).

Cub Scouts and Webelos, not camping are invited to join the activities on Saturday. (Submit Sign-up Sheet to office).

Detailed information and the sign-up sheet is available on the council web site.

Order of the Arrow Ordeal

When: September 12-13

Where: Camp McClintock

Who: Washita Lodge Arrowmen

Cost: \$15

[Register online](#) and pay at the Scout office.

Tentative Schedule:

- Friday
 - 7:00p.m. Checkin
 - 8:30p.m. Pre-Ordeal Ceremony
 - 9:00p.m. Cracker Barrel
 - 10:00p.m. Lights out
- Saturday
 - 7:00a.m. Breakfast
 - 8:00a.m. Work Projects
 - 12:00p.m. Lunch
 - 1:00p.m. Work Projects
 - 4:00p.m. Project cleanup & break camp
 - 5:00p.m. Dinner
 - 6:00p.m. Ordeal Ceremony
 - 7:30p.m. Camp cleanup & depart

Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge

When: September 20, 9AM to 5 PM

Where: Camp McClintock

Who: Boy Scouts

Cost: \$20 (includes NRA materials, ammo, targets and lunch)

Maximum class size: 8

Scouts attending this merit badge class will receive NRA First Steps training (**F**irearm **I**ntroduction, **R**esponsibility, and **S**afety **T**raining).

To register, contact the Scout Service Center (registrar@cherokeesba.org, 918-336-9170, or toll-free 888-269-1328)

Cub Scout Belt Loop Festival and Family Fun-o-Ree

When: September 20, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Where: M.J. Lee Lake (across from Lowe's on Adams Blvd.

Who: Cub Scouts

Cub Scouts, Webelos, and their friends are invited to come and to earn some Sports & Academics Belt Loops, including Badminton, Languages and Culture, Marbles, or Ultimate.

There will also be fun and games for the whole family including shooting and canoeing.

Bring a friend to have a Cub Scout adventure at the Belt Loop Festival. This event is open to the public – you do not have to be a Scout family to participate. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Some activities (canoeing and BB shooting) will be restricted to ages 7-12.

Cub Scout Fall Festival

When: October 11-12

Where: Camp McClintock

Who: Cub Scouts

Cost: All this fun for only \$7.00 per person (in advance) or \$10 person (at the gate)

Come for the day or spend the night camping with your family!

1:00 pm – Activities Begin!

- BBs, Archery, Fishing, Crafts (you may want to bring your own fishing equipment and lawn chair)

- Fishing contest for the largest fish caught by a Cub Scout

5:00-6:00 pm – Dinner will be served

7:00 pm – As darkness falls, the true festivities will begin

- Trail of Mystery
- Wilderness Wagon Rides
- Games a’ plenty and treats for the tummy
- HUGE bonfire
- Costume contest with fun prizes

The first 75 youth to sign up will receive the Fall Festival Patch. **Early Registration Ends October 5**

Registration is BY PACK. Check the Council web site for registration information.

BOY SCOUTS - We are looking for Boy Scout Troops to help with this year’s Fall Festival activities.

We are in need of one or more troops to plan and operate a hay ride and a midway for this Cub Scout activity. If your Troop would like to be involved in this event, please let us know.

Troops involved will receive supper free and have a small budget for each event, and have a really good time. All events must be ready by 6:00pm on Saturday evening, October 11.

If your troop is interested please let me know immediately so we can get you in the planning process.

If you have any questions or would like to help out please contact Charles Lewis, at charlielewis@yahoo.com for more information.

Electronics Merit Badge

When: October 18, 9AM to 5PM

Where: Scout Service Center

Who: Boy Scouts

Cost: FREE!

Maximum class size: 25

Scouts will learn about transistors, resistors, schematics, LEDs, capacitors, soldering, control circuits, and printed circuit boards and will complete all requirements for the Electronics Merit Badge.

Siemens is providing project materials and lunch.

To register, contact the Scout Service Center (registrar@cherokeesbsa.org, 918-336-9170, or toll-free 888-269-1328)

Advanced Climbing Instructor Training – Natural Site

When: November 8-9, 9AM to 5PM

Where: Camp McClintock

Who: Adult leaders – participants must have competed the Climbing Tower Instructor course)

Cost: \$15 (includes lunch)

Maximum class size: 15

Participants will learn the purpose of the climbing/Rappelling program:

- Responsibilities of a Climbing Instructor
- Be able to lead a group through a climbing/rappelling experience on a natural site

To register, contact the Scout Service Center (registrar@cheokeebsa.org, 918-336-9170 or toll-free 888-269-1328).

Philmont Leadership Challenge September 14-20

Every Scouting unit deserves trained leaders!

There is still time to sign up for the Philmont Leadership Challenge set for September 14-20 at Philmont. [Note: This is the last chance to take PLC until September 2015.]

This course will take you beyond Wood Badge in the development of your leadership skills as you experience practical methods to create high performance teams.

Plus, it's held at the all-new Rayado Ridge Leadership Camp at Philmont – a state of the art facility created especially for leadership training.

You will work with some of the best Scouters and leadership training people in the nation as you bask in the special place called Philmont.

More information can be found at www.philmontscoutranch.org/filestore/philmont/pdf/PLCFly.pdf or contact Dale Copeland @ (918) 333-4488.

2014 POW WOW

Presented by Indian Nations Council

When: November 1, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Where: Northeastern State University Broken Arrow Campus -3100 E. New Orleans

Cost: \$12.00 covers lunch and course materials

Class listing coming soon! Sign up now - include your email and you will be contacted directly to sign up for classes!

POW WOW is a single-day training event packed with loads of information for **all adults and Cub Scout leaders** who want to provide the best program possible to their Cub Scout Dens and Packs.

Some classes to be offered are: **The new Cub Scout Program**; den & pack ceremonies, Summertime Activities, Webelos outdoor activities, knives for cubs, recruiting, promotion and publicity, pack newsletters, designs that fly, Cub Scout cuisine, Blue and Gold Ceremonies, Pack meeting Pizzaz, plus many other classes that will be detailed on <http://www.okscouts.org>

Pre-registration is required to help us so we can “BE PREPARED” to help everyone.

Pre-registration should be in the Indian Nations Council office no later than October 4. [Register online here.](#)

If you need further information, please contact Chris Thomas at 918-806-1690 or christhoma_86@hotmail.com or Scott Thiessen at 918-743-6125 or sthiessen@okscouts.org.

Carol's Corner

Another school year is upon us and that translates into many youth having the opportunity to get involved in Scouting. I know we will all do our best to ensure each youth is invited and that every newly recruited youth and adult leader has a positive, fun experience.

In order to make recruiting and retention easier for units, please check out the items the board and donors have made possible since 2010 for **F R E E !**

If you are in Osage Hills District and haven't spoken about fall recruitment with District Executive Kimberly

Cowherd, Kimberly.Cowherd@scouting.org or 918-336-9170, please give her a call.

If you live in the Grand Lake area, please contact Doug Banner, Douglas.Banner@scouting.org, who will be happy to help you.

While supplies last, each new, paid **Boy Scout or Cub Scout** receives a

- **F R E E** HANDBOOK (courtesy Kendal Motor Oil & ConocoPhillips)
- **F R E E** PINEWOOD DERBY CAR for all Cub Scouts, 1st – 5th grade (courtesy of Honda of Bartlesville!)

(To qualify, applications must be postmarked or turned into Kim, Doug or the Scout Service Center within 48 hours of your unit's sign-up event.)

F R E E C A M P I N G ! As your unit plans their year, also keep in mind that on a first come, first served basis, the use of the Dining Hall and Cub Cabin at Camp McClintock is now free for Cherokee Area Council units. Call the Scout Service Center, 918-336-9170, to schedule your adventure!

F R E E A D V A N C E M E N T !
Please review the free advancement policy below.

Achieve the following and your unit will receive **FREE** rank patches:

- Unit participation in the annual Friends of Scouting Campaign
- Participation in Popcorn Sales with minimum sales totaling \$100 times number of youth members at last charter renewal [example: unit with 6 registered youth members x \$100 = \$600 minimum sales]
- Submit a clean and transmittable charter renewal by December 12th
- Have unit adult leader representation at 70% of all roundtables
- Send at least one leader to Wood Badge Training – as a participant or staff member (if applicable)
- Have Unit Leader fully trained and all leaders youth protection trained by year end

To receive Free Merit Badges and 50% Cost of Eagle Kit unit* will need to qualify for free rank patches (see requirements above) and achieve the following during 2014:

- Unit achievement of the National Camping Award
- Achieve Bronze, Silver or Gold Level for unit on Journey to Excellence in the previous year

F R E E SCHOLARSHIPS: If you know of a Scout that needs free registration or can't afford a uniform and your unit can't help, please give the Scout Service Center a call. We never want a youth to be denied the opportunity of Scouting due to funds.

F R E E SCOUTING ADVICE! Should you need anything, please call the Scout Service Center, 918-336-9170, and we will help or refer you to someone who can!

God bless each of you as we begin the 2014/15 School and Scouting Year!



“Back in my day, they didn't award a merit badge for using a GPS.”

Swimming merit badge revised

Swimming merit badge, that Eagle-required summer camp staple, has been upgraded and revised.



The new requirements focus more on teaching Scouts correct stroke mechanics while continuing to emphasize basic water skills. Previous requirements like snorkeling, competitive swimming and CPR (which Scouts learn more fully in other merit badges anyway) have been removed.

With the new requirements, the goal is to teach Scouts to swim with greater ease and efficiency, as well as keep them safe in and around the water.

Scouts may use either the old or new requirements in 2014 — it's their choice. On Jan. 1, 2015, they'll become official, and only Scouts who have already started working with the old requirements may use the old ones. Here's how the transition will work:

- **Jan. 1, 2014 to Dec. 31, 2014:** Scouts may begin or continue working on Swimming merit using either the old or new Swimming merit badge requirements. It's the Scout's choice.
- **Jan. 1, 2015 and beyond:** Scouts who have started work using the old requirements may continue to use the old requirements. They don't need to start over again with the new ones. However, Scouts who haven't started at all must use the new requirements.

As you know, Swimming's an important merit badge because to earn the Eagle Scout Award, a Scout must earn either Swimming, Cycling or Hiking MB.

A revised Swimming merit badge pamphlet, with new color illustrations, will be available soon for purchase at local Scout Shops and through ScoutStuff.org.

(Excerpted from Bryan on Scouting, May 19, 2014)

Pack Camping—What Are You Waiting For?

Say the word “camping” to a Cub Scout, and he probably has many visions—a campfire, “s'mores,”

sleeping in a tent, cooking breakfast, and maybe hiking or fishing.

What do these things have in common? Sure, they are all fun, but they are all related to advancement requirements, too, because Cub Scout pack overnight camping can and should be fun with a purpose.

While there are several types of Cub Scout camping, pack camping experiences may involve all of the dens in a pack—Tiger Cub, Wolf, Bear, and Webelos Scouts—as well as all family members. These pack overnights must focus on age-appropriate Cub Scout activities and be conducted at council-approved locations. If siblings participate, the event must be structured accordingly to accommodate them.

What does a pack need besides marshmallows to conduct an overnighter? For starters, at least one person who attends, and helps plan and conduct the event must complete Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation training (BALOO). This day-long course covers planning, health and safety, outdoor skills, campfires, resources, and program.

In addition, at least one adult attending must have completed Planning and Preparing for Hazardous Weather training, which is found online at MyScouting.org.

A quick scan of the four Cub Scout youth handbooks and the Cub Scout Academics and Sports Program Guide will provide planners and leaders with dozens of campout activities that have advancement links for each rank.

Although Tiger Cubs and Webelos Scouts have different requirements, planners should look for activities that are similar or “progressive.” For example, Tiger Cubs might fulfill “Take a hike with your den,” achievement 5G, while the Webelos Scouts may complete “Discuss with your Webelos den leader the things you need to take on a hike,” Outdoorsman 9, before joining the Tiger Cub on his hike.



Similar “threads” can be found with nature, cooking, fitness, games, outdoor activities, and even crafts.

New Venturing awards

The requirements for the Venturing, Discovery, Pathfinder and Summit Awards were released at the 2014 National Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

Venturers have until the end of the year to finish up work on the rarely earned and soon-to-be-retired Bronze, Gold and Silver awards.

The new awards blend adventure, leadership, personal development and service to give Venturers a structure for developing their own personal vision into manageable goals. That’ll translate into recognition by peers, mentors and the larger community. Any Venturer, regardless of his or her crew’s specialty, will find the awards fit their program.

Each award has a focus. For the **Venturing** award, it’s joining; for **Discovery**, it’s participation; for **Pathfinder**, it’s leadership; and for the **Summit** award, it’s mentoring.

The requirements are posted on the [Program Updates page](#) on scouting.org. [Click here](#) for the direct link to the PDF including the requirements.

Many Venturers and advisors have wondered how the transition from the Bronze, Gold and Silver awards will work. Here’s what you need to know:

Current Awards: Bronze, Gold and Silver

- Venturers may continue working on these until Dec. 31, 2014
- Current Venturers may convert to the new awards beginning June 1, 2014. They must begin with the Discovery award, regardless of whether they earned Bronze, Gold and Silver. That’s because the award requirements have very little overlap.
- Venturers must use the new awards after Dec. 31, 2014

New Awards: Venturing, Discovery, Pathfinder and Summit

- Venturers may convert to the new awards on June 1, 2014:

- Current Venturers: Begin by working on the Discovery award
- New Venturers: Begin by working on the Venturing award
- All Venturers must use the new awards after Dec. 31, 2014

(Excerpted from Bryan on Scouting, May 21, 2014)

The Cub Scout Angle

By now many have heard that changes will be coming to the Cub Scout program effective June 1, 2015 (scouting.org/programupdates).

- New Tiger Cubs recruited in the spring and fall will be among the last to learn the Cub Scout Promise and the Law of the Pack. They will be the last to wear the original Tiger Cub rank patch and the Tiger Cub immediate recognition totem.
- This program year will be the final opportunity for Cub Scouts to earn belt loops and pins in the Academics and Sports program.
- This will be the last program year for Arrow Points.
- Webelos activity badges, the Webelos compass emblem, and compass points are likewise being retired.

So while much is changing, much is not. Cub Scouting will still be family-focused. “Do your best” will always be part of the Cub Scout program; nothing is going to replace that challenge. There will continue to be an outdoor program, the traditional ranks, and even more fun than before. There will be many new belt loops to earn in the future and new adventures to explore.

Looping you in on the Cub Scout 2015 updates

Belt loops and pins aren’t going anywhere when Cub Scouting gets an exciting refresh in May 2015.

In fact, belt loops — now called adventure loops — and pins (adventure pins) will get even better than before with the new updates.

Boys will receive an **adventure loop** for their Cub Scout belt for completing adventures at the Tiger, Wolf and

Bear level. Boys working on Webelos and Arrow of Light ranks will receive **adventure pins** when each adventure is completed.

And good news for Scouters and Scouts who liked the soon-to-depart Academics and Sports program belt loops: Many of the activities that were popular in that program were integrated into the new Cub Scout adventure program.

What are the requirements? Who wrote them? How do I transition my den and pack into the new program? Your source for that kind of information is the [Program Updates page](#) on scouting.org.

They’re you’ll find:

- Samplers of new youth handbooks
- Samplers of the den leader guides for adult Scouters
- FAQs answered by the program developers
- Adventure requirements and insignia
- An introduction to Ethan, the new cartoon character that will guide Cub Scouts through the program
- A transition guide

Have questions? Check out the Q&A from the May 21st issue of *Bryan on Scouting* <http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2014/05/21/looping-you-in-on-the-cub-scout-2015-updates/>

(Excerpted from Bryan on Scouting, May, 21, 2014)

Webelos to Arrow of Light transition gets a second option

The [exciting changes to Cub Scouting](#) are still a year away, but there’s good news for leaders of Cub Scouts, especially second-year Webelos, to ease the transition process.

Cub Scouts who have earned the Webelos rank as of June 1, 2015, and are moving on to earning the Arrow of Light will now have two options for completing the Arrow of Light:

Option 1: He may continue to work out of the current handbook and complete the Arrow of Light requirements as stated.

Option 2: He may begin using the new Webelos

Handbook and the Webelos Den Leader Guide for the Webelos adventures. If he chooses this option:

- He must complete the four defined required adventures.
- To satisfy the requirement for three electives, he may use EITHER the new adventure electives OR activity badges earned under the current program but **not used to fulfill Webelos rank requirements.**

Previously only Option 2 was available, meaning when first-year Webelos transitioned to the second-year Webelos program in 2015, they would need to get the new book and earn their Arrow of Light Award under the redesigned program.

They may still do that, or they may choose Option 1 and stick with the current handbook and requirements as they finish Cub Scouts.

How do you decide between Option 1 and Option 2?

Webelos den leaders should look closely at [the requirements](#) for both the current and new programs prior to making the call on which way to go in 2015.

The new program has been built with an increased focus on the transition to Boy Scouts and may well be the best way to go for some dens and boys.

So sit with your fellow leaders and choose carefully! Your boys deserve it.

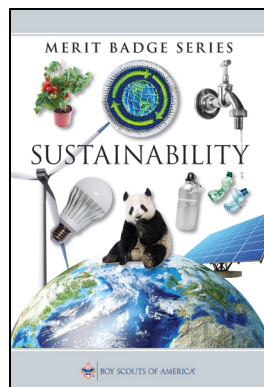
What about Tigers, Wolves and Bears? Their transition remains the same. [Check here for more information about the new Cub Scout program.](#)

A leader's guide to the new Sustainability merit badge

(Excerpted from the September-October 2013 issue of *Scouting* magazine)

The Sustainability merit badge debuted at this summer's national jamboree and joined the list of Eagle-required merit badges as an alternative to Environmental Science.

The new badge begins and ends with a family meeting in which family members discuss



what they can do to live more sustainably. In between, the Scout undertakes projects, often alongside his family, to understand the big picture regarding topics such as water, food, energy, and transportation, as well as waste reduction, species decline, world population, and climate change.

To learn more about the badge, we talked with four Scouters who served on the Sustainability Merit Badge Task Force: Scott Berger of Scotch Plains, N.J., chairman of the Sustainability Leadership Team overseeing the merit badge's development and chairman of the Merit Badge Maintenance Task Force; Scott Harmon of Portola Valley, chairman of the content team; Steve Bowen of El Centro, Calif., a member of the National Advancement Committee; and David Disney of Kansas City, Mo., a member of the National Executive Board.

What is sustainability in the simplest terms?

“Sustainability is more of a new way of thinking as opposed to the science in the Environmental Science merit badge,” Berger says. “The idea is not just to conserve but to truly be stewards of our environment, our energy sources, and more—to think in terms not just of having enough for our lifetime but enough for future generations.”

Those challenges can seem overwhelming. Is that why the requirements focus so much on Scout-size projects? “It’s a hard concept for a Scout to feel that he himself, as a single person, can have an impact on the world, but he certainly can have an impact within his own family,” Berger says. “We’re hoping to bring [sustainability] down to a level where a Scout can feel he can make a difference, where his actions matter.”

How does the new badge compare with Environmental Science? “Environmental Science is more about studying the scientific end, whereas Sustainability is trying to teach a way to think—to live more responsibly and sustainably,” Berger says. “It’s a state of mind as opposed to the science.” Drawing similarities between the two is kind of like comparing macroeconomics vs. microeconomics, Harmon says. “Sustainability is macro, looking outward at the whole global problem. Environmental Science is micro, looking at the science and chemistry of what’s going on.”

Should interested Scouts pursue both badges,

counting the second as an elective for Eagle? “I would encourage them to earn both,” Berger says. Bowen agrees, pointing out that earning Environmental Science could be good preparation for Sustainability. “You’ve got to understand the environment a bit before you can start figuring out how we can do a better job,” he says.

Can a Scout earn this badge if he lives in an urban area? Yes, says Berger. “There are a lot of things we’ve done to make this badge viable for any Scout, regardless of where he’s living,” he says. “Sustainability is certainly not just for suburban Scouts; it’s for everybody.”

Who can counsel this badge? Bowen suggests science teachers as potential counselors, although he points out that the badge is about more than just science. “Trees are very important to it, but so is not filling up our landfills,” he says.

Disney suggests seeking out people who are doing the sorts of projects the badge requires. “Who’s helping with glass recycling? Who’s helping with the community garden? Who’s helping with other things and might have a passion for a component of this? They would be ideal counselors,” he says.

Another source would be people who have responsibility for sustainability efforts at work. “Most companies have an energy team, or a green team, or an efficiency team,” Harmon says. “There’s a huge grassroots movement going on—in big companies in particular—that was not there five years ago.”

Of course, all merit badge counselors must register with the BSA and be approved by the council advancement committee before beginning work.

What impact could this badge have beyond the Scouts who earn it and their families? “I would hope that our awareness of our footprint on this earth will be recognized at an earlier age and will start the conversation about how we protect the earth,” Disney says. “Many young people are concerned about that and don’t know how to approach it. This gives them a path.”

Harmon adds, “We really want to empower the Scouting movement to make a difference, to make a visible difference in the world outside Scouting.”

It Can Wait: How to keep your Scouts from texting and driving

Make the promise to never text and drive, and do everything you can to convince your driving-age Scouts to do the same.

That’s the challenge from AT&T, official communications sponsor of the BSA, which started the campaign against texting and driving.

More than 4.7 million people have taken [the pledge](#) not to text and drive, but putting that promise into action isn’t always easy.

Here are a few ideas for fighting the urge.

- **Store your phone in the glove box or trunk.** As they say, “out of sight, out of mind.”
- **Use “X” or #X as a signal that you’re driving.** By ending a text conversation with the letter “X” or tweeting with #X, you’ve just told your friends and family that it’s time to stop messaging and start driving. Train them to know that signal.
- **Give your phone to someone else.** If you’re driving with others, let them keep you focused on the road.
- **Put your phone on Do Not Disturb and face down in the passenger seat.** Silence your phone and put it face down so you don’t see the screen. Then turn on some good music and just drive.
- **Draw X’s on your thumbs.** This might be a little extreme, but it’s a visual reminder to stop typing and start driving.
- **Let technology help keep you honest.** [AT&T Drive Mode](#) and other apps block texting while driving and let others know you’re on the road.



Steps to stop texting and driving

AT&T has created [a PDF with four simple steps](#) to stop texting and driving. Share these with your Scouts:

- **Awareness:** Texting while driving is involved in at least 200,000 vehicle crashes each year.
- **Commitment:** Make a lifelong commitment. Go with a loved one to [take the pledge](#).

- **Ritual:** Make a routine that you remember every time you drive — just like buckling your seat belt.
- **Influence:** 90 percent of drivers say they'd stop texting and driving if a friend asked them to. Don't be silent.

Revised Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook Posted

The revised Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook has been published electronically on the Advancement Resources webpage at www.scouting.org/advancement.

The revised workbook is not fundamentally different from its predecessor. It has been reorganized, some functionality has been improved, a few clarifications made, and a new document added for project beneficiaries.

The key changes include:

- All general information, including the “Message to Scouts and Parents or Guardians” and the “Excerpts and Summaries from the Guide to Advancement,” are now at the front of the workbook.
- The “Contact Information” page is included with the proposal. Note the instructions at the top of the page indicate that only information that is reasonably required must be included.
- Functionality has been added to allow certain information from title pages and the “Contact Information” page to auto-populate fields elsewhere.
- Some tables have been added and functionality improved to allow appropriate fields to expand to accept additional text.
- “Project Description and Impact” section has been added to the project report.
- “Navigating the Eagle Scout Service Project, Information for Project Beneficiaries” has been added at the back of the workbook. The Eagle Scout candidate should provide this piece to the project beneficiary and use it for discussion purposes. Note there is now a check box on the proposal for the beneficiary to indicate that a copy of the document was received.

Scouts who have already downloaded and begun working with the previous version of the workbook will be allowed to continue using it, whether or not their proposal has been approved.

A Scout whose proposal has already been approved using the original workbook may opt to use the “Final Plan,” the “Fundraising Application,” and the “Project Report” sections of the revised workbook.

Scouts who have not begun working on their proposal must now use the May 2014 version of the workbook.

Council or district advancement committees should use common sense and judgment, however, if Scouts submit former versions of the workbook. There is not much point in having Scouts copy everything from one version of the workbook to another.

Recommendations for changes or other improvements to the workbook should be sent to: advancement.team@scouting.org.

Merit Badges—Enhancing Our Youth's Competitive Edge

Computers and Digital Technology Transition—Questions and Answers

With the debut of the Digital Technology merit badge, there have been many questions about the Computers merit badge. Here are some answers:

- Computers merit badge will be discontinued as of December 31, 2014 and replaced at that time by the Digital Technology merit badge.
- The 2014 Boy Scout Requirements book does not include requirements for Computers merit badge, but does have those for Digital Technology. However, requirements for Computers merit badge will still be provided on the BSA website, along with those for all other merit badges.
- Scouts have until December 31, 2014, to begin work on Computers. If by that date, a Scout has begun an actual and purposeful effort on the merit badge, and that effort is more than simply incidental to participation in Scouting activities, then there will be no time limit for completing the badge, except for his 18th birthday.

However, the Computers merit badge pamphlet will not be reprinted and the patch will no longer be made; when inventories are gone, they are gone.

- Scouts **are not** permitted to begin work on Computers merit badge after December 31, 2014.
- A Scout *may* earn both Computers and Digital Technology merit badges and wear both on his merit badge sash—as long as Computers is begun before Dec. 31, 2014.

How to recruit older Scouts and Venturers

(Posted to Bryan on Scouting, August 5, 2014)

The most common — and some say the most effective — time to recruit new Scouts is when they're at Tiger Cub age. They start at the start, and they're hooked for life.

But that's of no use to troops, ships and crews looking to increase the number of young men and women in their unit.

So what's the secret to getting older youth into the program?

Start by listening to the [August 2014 ScoutCast](#). In it, you'll hear from Scott Woolery, the chartered organization representative for a Minnesota troop that boasts a whopping 104 current youth members. Woolery is also a Northern Star Council board member.

What are the benefits of having a larger troop or crew?

"If you have more youth, you typically have more adults," Woolery tells the podcast hosts. "And if you have more adults, you have more resources available for the kids to go out and have fun."

Woolery offers these ideas for recruiting older Scouts and Venturers:

- Try peer-to-peer recruiting ("Bring a friend" isn't just for Cub Scouts)
- Hold open houses or presentations at schools (assuming the school/district allows it)
- Tap into other youth organizations, such as church youth groups

- Find [recruiting tools online](#)
- Find recruiting tools available through your council
- Make sure parents get involved

To that last point, Woolery explains that parents "have contact with other adults who have kids that are the same age as their own children are." So it makes sense for them to approach those adults and invite them to a meeting or campout.

When do you recruit older Scouts and Venturers? Constantly, Woolery says.

"Recruiting is a 12-month opportunity," he says. "If we think we're only going to recruit in the fall, we will only recruit in the fall. On the other hand, if every time a unit or a district or a council has an event and they ask themselves what can we do to make this a bring-a-friend event," recruiting will naturally follow.

[Listen to the August 2014 ScoutCast here.](#)

Upcoming Key Dates

Check the Council web site (<http://www.cherokeesbsa.org>) for more information about these events.

- August 7 – Osage Hills District Unit Commissioners (adult leaders)
- August 7 – Osage Hills District Roundtable (adult leaders)
- August 7 – Osage Hills District Order of the Arrow Chapter meeting (Boy Scouts)
- August 14 – Osage Hills District Eagle Boards of Review (Boy Scouts)
- August 14 – Grand Lake District Roundtable (adult leaders)
- August 14 – Grand Lake District Order of the Arrow Chapter meeting (Boy Scouts)
- September 4 – Osage Hills District Unit Commissioners (adult leaders)
- September 4 – Osage Hills District Roundtable (adult leaders)
- September 4 – Osage Hills District Order of the Arrow Chapter meeting (Boy Scouts)
- September 5-7 – Council Camporee (Boy Scouts)
- September 11 – Osage Hills District Eagle Boards of Review (Boy Scouts)
- September 11 – Grand Lake District Roundtable (adult leaders)
- September 11 – Grand Lake District Order of the Arrow Chapter meeting (Boy Scouts)
- September 12-13 – Order of the Arrow Ordeal
- September 18 – Osage Hills Cub Scout Leader Training
- September 20 – Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge (Boy Scouts)
- September 20 – Cub Scout Belt Loop Festival and Family Fun-o-Ree
- October 2 – Osage Hills District Unit Commissioners (adult leaders)
- October 2 – Osage Hills District Roundtable (adult leaders)
- October 2 – Osage Hills District Order of the Arrow Chapter meeting (Boy Scouts)
- October 7-8 – Osage Hills Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmaster Leader Training
- October 9 – Osage Hills District Eagle Boards of Review (Boy Scouts)
- October 9 – Grand Lake District Roundtable (adult leaders)
- October 9 – Grand Lake District Order of the Arrow Chapter meeting (Boy Scouts)
- October 11 – Osage Hills Cub Scout Fall Festival
- October 11 – Grand Lake Cub Scout Fall Festival
- October 18 – Electronics Merit Badge (Boy Scouts)
- October 23 – First Aid/CPR Training (adult leaders)
- October 24-25 – Order of the Arrow Fall Fellowship