

Note: This is a special version of the parent guide intended for access on the public area or our website. Some personal information has been removed. The version of this document in the private area, meant for Troop families' use, will contain more contact information



BSA Troop 40

Saint Columba Parish

Parent Information Guide

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Welcome to Troop 40

Welcome to Boy Scout Troop 40. We hope you will find this booklet a helpful tool in understanding the program. We suggest you keep this booklet for future reference. An update letter will be sent by the committee each September noting any changes.

Troop 40 has been sponsored by St Columba Parish of Hopewell Jct. since 1964. Since that time many young men have had the rewarding experience of learning skills, enjoying fellowship and gaining knowledge that has assisted them in becoming leaders in our community.

We are part of the Dutchess District of the Hudson Valley BSA Council.

Troop 40 Information

Meetings

Our meeting place has changed over the years to keep pace with our growth. We presently meet at Gayhead Elementary School Thursday evenings whenever school is in session (excluding July & August) 7:15 – 8:45 PM. Scouts should be in the building by 7:10. No one should enter the meeting room during the opening ceremonies (pledge, oath, law, etc.). Scouts who arrive late should wait until the announcements start. Since we meet in a school, meetings are not held during WCSD school holidays and cancellations.

Dues

At present our dues are \$50 per year, payable by the first meeting in September. The money covers registration, insurance, advancement awards, activity badges, site rentals and basic operating supplies for the troop. The Scout will receive an annual membership card from Boy Scouts of America (BSA) through Hudson Valley Council, and a monthly newsletter from the troop. Boy's Life (one copy per family), BSA's official Scouting magazine, is available, this is included in the dues. After payment deadline, Scouts who have not paid their dues will be not be eligible to attend troop activities or receive rank advancement.

Transportation

Occasionally, you may be asked to help provide transportation or be available as the emergency contact for a campout or other Troop activity. You may transport only the number of Scouts for which you have working seat belts. The Transportation Chairperson keeps the motor vehicle information and arranges for coverage. Transportation forms are requested periodically. Please make sure you have one on file. This information is necessary to fulfill the requirements to council for all trips. A transportation charge will be added to the camp out fee for all trips exceeding 50 miles. This fee will be use to reimburse drivers for tolls/gas.

Service

Service is a very important part of scouting, especially with Troop 40. The troop does a number of projects for our Charter Organization. Some of these include Blood Bank, Town clean-ups, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets, and Scavenger hunts for Saint Vincent de Paul Society. We EXPECT all members to participate. Service time is also required for the ranks of Second Class, Star and Life. Service time not done as a troop activity must be pre-approved by the SM. if it is to be counted for advancement.

Fundraisers

Participation in at least 2 fundraisers is expected. It allows the troop to deliver a quality program and pay for equipment, advancements and awards. We would not be able to run the troop (on our current fee) without them. We run a variety of fundraisers which may include the following:

- Sale of Entertainment Books (fall)
- Popcorn Sales (District Fund raiser - SEPT/OCT)
- Candy for Summer Camp (optional for individual scouts who desire to do it.)(spring)
- Bowl-a-thon (Council fundraiser. Feb.)
- Coffee Breaks and Wreath/Flower Sales as needed.

Camping

Troop 40 goes camping approximately once a month. The Scout must provide his own mess kit, sleeping bag, and backpack. Tents, meals and sleeping arrangements are scheduled at the troop meetings prior to a campout. A small fee covers the cost of food (transportation and any additional fees are added if required). All Scouts must have a signed permission slip submitted with the proper non-refundable fee (CASH ONLY - unless otherwise stated) to the Scribe - no later than 2 weeks prior to the event.

At the conclusion of a camping weekend all Scouts are expected to take home their share of troop equipment for cleaning. Upon returning (from the campout) to the sheds they should remain until troop equipment is taken care of and all of their personal gear, medications and belongings are retrieved; they will then be dismissed by the Scout in charge. Parents are asked to be patient during this process, as the campout is not over until it is complete.

Uniform

Troop 40 encourages a complete Class "A" uniform (hat, belt, shirt and pants or shorts with scout socks). The Scout will receive a neckerchief from the troop. The BSA khaki shirt with green shoulder loops is essential and should be worn to all meetings and activities unless otherwise instructed. The Troop policy is that Class "A" uniforms are required while a troop is traveling. This usually includes the drive to a campout. Green BSA shorts and/or long pants are available and should be purchased new or used as soon as possible. When shorts are worn, Scout socks must also be worn. If regulation BSA pants/shorts are not worn - appropriate olive green pants/shorts should be worn. BSA now offers "Switchback" pants, the legs zip off so they can be worn as shorts. Jeans are never acceptable. If a hat is worn, it must be a scout hat. Please refer to your son's Boy Scout Handbook for more information on uniform items and placement of insignia. Uniforms and other Scouting items can be purchased at the Hudson Valley Council, Trading Post (6 Jeanne Drive, Newburgh, 845-564-4210), through the BSA catalog - www.scoutstuff.org, Little Darlings (Rte 9, Wappinger Falls). Holidays and birthdays provide great opportunities for relatives to purchase Scout uniform items and supplies. Troop 40 Class B shirts and hats are also available through the troop. The hat available through the Troop will look and fit better than the generic BSA hat. Any scout-related tee shirt (i.e. camp shirt) is considered Class B. A uniform exchange is available - for further information call Mr. Zeigler xxx-xxxx.

Handbook

Scouts will need a Scout Handbook. It explains everything a Scout needs for his advancements and for outdoor activities. Progress is recorded in the handbook. Unlike Cub Scouts a Boy Scout does not get a new handbook each year. Books can be purchased at the same locations as the uniform above. Covers can also be purchased and are recommended.

Basic Equipment

Troop 40 camps year round. You should consider this fact when you purchase equipment for your son. The basics he will need are:

- Sleeping Bag – Should be rated for 20 degrees or colder.
- Pad or Mat- For under the sleeping bag
- Backpack – Internal or External frame. This is a personal preference, although internal frame has more adjustment and seems to fit a boy longer. It would be advisable to speak with a Scoutmaster before purchasing a new backpack.
- Mess Kit & Utensils – The mess kit can be postponed for the first few campouts as long as the boy brings a plastic plate/bowl/cup.
- Flashlight- should be a good one with extra batteries.
- Raingear – A good quality poncho or rainsuit will save him from a very uncomfortable weekend should it rain.
- Footwear- Appropriate light weight waterproof hiking boots (mid or full height recommended).

Please obtain a guide for outfitting your Scout from his Adult advisor before purchasing a great deal of equipment.

As your son camps more he will develop his own “wish list” of items that enhance his experience.

Health Information

Each Scout must have a physical examination form (BSA Class 3) completed and on file with the troop. This form should include all medications, allergies and possible side effects. The examination is good for three years, but must be reviewed annually for any changes/corrections.

In addition, health information will be required on the permission slip for each event. Please make sure that the emergency contact number is one where someone is available if needed. It is extremely important that the SM”S be kept informed of any medical, emotional or behavior issues regarding your son.

Troop Discipline

There are certain types of behavior which are inappropriate for Scouting activities and meetings; these include fighting, disruptive behavior, damage of Troop or personal property, swearing, smoking, or using alcohol or drugs. In the case of minor offenses the Scout will receive a warning that he cannot behave in such a manner at Scout activities. For repeated offenses, or for major offenses, you will be called and asked to take your son home. If we are camping, you will be called and asked to pick up your son. This is a step we would take only when a Scout's behavior becomes physically dangerous to other Scouts or threatens another Scout's scouting experience. If you are asked to take your son home, this does not mean that he is no longer a Scout and cannot participate in future activities. Only for the most severe and repeated offenses will a Scout be asked to leave the Troop.

Financial Hardship

If any Scout family is experiencing financial difficulty and is unable to pay for Troop dues, camping fees, or summer camp, the parents should contact the Scoutmaster or the Committee Chair. They will handle all requests in confidence. If possible the Troop will assist. In the past generous donors have also provided camperships for summer camp. **We do not want a Scout miss out on Troop activities due to financial hardship.**

BSA Mission Statement

“It is the mission of the Boy Scouts of America to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and in other ways prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetime in achieving their full potential.”

Troop Structure

A Boy Scout troop is made up of patrols of six to eight boys led by a senior Scout who is the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL). He is aided by as many as two Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders (ASPL). The Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster(s) help oversee the troop meetings. The SPL is elected by the Scouts in the troop. He chooses the ASPL(s). Each patrol also elects a Patrol Leader (PL). Each PL will choose an Assistant Patrol Leader (APL) and a Patrol Quartermaster. New Scouts just joining the Troop will be formed into a “New Boy Patrol”. They will elect their Patrol Leader. The New Boy PL will be guided by a Senior Scout who is a Troop Guide and an Adult advisor.

The SPL, ASPL, Scribe, and Patrol leaders and other junior leaders meet once a month to plan the troop meetings and campouts at a Patrol Leaders Council meeting (PLC). The program is boy run. With the guidance of the Scoutmaster and assistants, they plan the program, conduct troop meetings and provide leadership among their peers. Learning to be a leader is a very important aspect of the program.

Leadership

The Troop holds elections for SPL, Patrol Leaders, Scribe and Quartermaster each year. The remaining leadership positions are appointed by the SM. Other leadership positions your son may hold are: Grubmaster, Historian, Librarian, Troop Guide, Instructor and Bugler. He may also decide to work with a Cub Scout Pack as a Den Chief-with the approval of the Scoutmaster. Leadership positions are usually held by Scouts with the rank of First Class and above.

Any Scout in a leadership position who finds he has a conflict that will prevent him from fulfilling the obligations of his position for an extended period of time (greater than 3-4 weeks) is EXPECTED to notify the SM and the SPL. The SM will appoint another Scout to the position.

At the end of each scout year (June), time for all positions of leadership are frozen until the start of the new scout year (September). PLEASE NOTE: all leadership positions and the administering of those positions are at the discretion of the Scoutmaster.

SPACE PROVIDED BELOW IS FOR YOUR SON TO PENCIL IN HIS CURRENT TROOP LEADERS

Position	Name	Phone
Senior Patrol Leader		
Patrol Leader		
Assistant Patrol Leader		
Troop Guide		

If your son has a question, the first person he should call is his Patrol Leader. Then his Troop Guide and finally the SPL.

Each patrol has an Adult advisor. This is the best person for parents to address their questions to.

Position	Name	Phone
Adult Advisor		

Advancement

Advancement sets a pattern of setting positive goals and reaching for them throughout life. The requirement for the ranks of Tenderfoot through First Class prepare a Scout to take full advantage of all that Scouting has to offer. Star Life and Eagle requirements focus on service to others and developing leadership skills. Requirements each rank are outlined in the Boy Scout Handbook. The Scout MUST bring his handbook (and a notebook or binder with pockets) to all meetings and activities in order for requirements to be initialed and dated ("Be Prepared").

Scouts start by earning the Scout rank. The requirements can be found in the Boy Scout Handbook. These skills must be demonstrated to the Scoutmaster (SM) or Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM) who will then initial and date the Scout's handbook. The initials or signature and date are required for the badge to be awarded. Many new Scouts, who have earned the Arrow of Light as a Webelos Cub Scout, can complete these requirements within the first few meetings. The scout is then required to bring his book to the Advancement Chairperson to update the database, without this, a scout may jeopardize his advancement if his book is lost.

Requirements for all ranks are listed in the Boy Scout Handbook. The ranks of Tenderfoot Scout, Second Class Scout, and First Class Scout require skills learned at campouts, hikes, and troop meetings. When a Scout feels he has learned the skills for a particular requirement, he presents himself with his handbook to an ASM or the SM to be tested on the requirement. The SM or ASM will initial and date requirements as they are completed. Parents CANNOT sign off on Scout requirements. It is the scout's responsibility to present his book to the Advancement Chairperson when a requirement is complete. This allows the Advancement chair to record it in the Troop database and know when the Scout has completed all the requirements to advance. It also provides an additional record of accomplishment in case a book is lost. A Scout may work on the requirements for all three ranks in any order, but will receive the ranks in order (i.e. Tenderfoot before Second Class, Second Class before First Class).

The last two requirements for each of these ranks are a Scoutmaster's Conference and Board of Review. At the Scoutmaster's Conference, the Scout and SM review the requirements for that rank and any previous ranks. If the SM feels confident that the Scout demonstrates the knowledge and skills required, he will initial and date the handbook and arrange for a Board of Review. The Board of Review consists of two or three adults. The SM, ASM, and the Scout's parents CANNOT be on the Board. The Scout must present himself in a neat, clean class "A" and have his handbook. The Board will be postponed if either of the two is missing. The Board will ask him questions about Scouting, the troop, activities he has attended, and advancement requirements pertaining to the rank he is completing. The Board announces the results to the Scout and SM after conferring. All rank awards are presented at a meeting as soon as possible after completion of the requirements or the next Court of Honor. A Court of Honor is held three times a year. Recognition is given for advancement, merit badges and any special awards that have been earned.

Training

Youth Training

Leadership training for the Scouts is provided by the troop approximately once a year. Hudson Valley Council also provides Junior Leader Training (weeklong camp) for eligible Scouts to help them in their troop leader positions. Den Chief training is provided by council (usually at Nov. Pow-Wow), and the Scoutmaster.

Adult Training

Adult training consists of: Fast Start (video tape) New Leader Essentials (NLE), Youth Protection training, Leader Specific training (BSLST), Woodbadge, and Merit Badge Counselor training which is all available through Hudson Valley Council. . Fast Start Basic Training and Youth protection training is required of all adult troop leaders. NLE and BSLST is encouraged.

BSA also provides a University of Scouting where you can take individual courses or complete a BS, Masters, and Ph.D. in Scouting

Merit Badges

Earning merit badges allows Scouts to explore many fields, helps them round out their skills and introduces them to subjects that will perhaps become lifelong interests or a rewarding career. Once the rank of Scout has been earned, the boy may begin working on Merit Badges (however, it is advisable to direct efforts to obtaining First Class). There are more than 100 merit badges, a list of all available merit badges is near the back of the Boy Scout Handbook or available on line at www.meritbadge.com. The requirements for each merit badge are found in the merit badge pamphlet. The troop maintains a library of merit badge pamphlets that members of the troop may borrow through the Troop Librarian while working on a merit badge. You may also purchase them at Lil Darlings or the Scout Shop.

Work on a merit badge may be done, in a group outside meetings, at a merit badge seminar, on an individual basis, or at summer camp. All badges require a Merit Badge Counselor. As required by BSA youth protection policy, when working as an individual with a Merit Badge Counselor, another person **MUST** be present. This can be another Scout, a parent, friend, or responsible sibling.

Merit Badge Procedures

When a Scout has an interest in earning a particular merit badge, he should take the following steps:

- Obtain the name of the merit badge counselor from Mr. Silverman.
- Get a blue card from Mr. Zeigler. He will sign it showing the Scout is approved for that merit badge.
- Next, he should identify another Scout with an interest in the same merit badge who will become his partner. Scouts must have a buddy with them at each meeting with the counselor (Scout buddy system). If he cannot find another Scout to do the Merit Badge with him he must have another person with him at each meeting with the merit badge counselor. This person can be another Scout, parent or guardian, a brother or sister or other relative, or a friend.
- They are then directed to the appropriate merit badge counselor. The counselor reviews the badge requirements with the young men and decides with them what projects should be undertaken and when they should be completed.
- After the counselor has certified that the Scouts have qualified for the merit badge, they will sign off the blue card.
- The Scout should then ask the leader that originally signed the card to sign off on the completion.
- The Scout then gives the blue card to the Advancement Coordinator, Mrs. Shultis.
- The merit badge will then be presented to them at a Troop COH and can be applied toward rank advancement. The Merit Badge is worn on his merit badge sash.
- The Scout's portion of the blue card should be retained by the Scout as proof of completion of the merit badge and should be kept in a safe place. These can be used to recreate a record of advancement - especially when a scout is aspiring to Eagle.

Note: This does not apply to merit badges started at summer camp. Scouts should never start a merit badge before talking to a counselor or getting a blue card and approval from a Scoutmaster.

Troop 40 Adult Leadership

Charter Organization - Saint Columba Parish, Rte 82, Hopewell Junction

Institutional Head - Monsignor G. Colacicco

Committee Members:

Committee Chair	Mr. Coffin
Asst. Committee Chair	Mrs. Schmid
Secretary	Mrs. Nicoletti
Treasurer	Mr. Wiley
Advancement	Mrs. Shultis
Charter Organization Rep	Mr. Boston
Transportation	Mr. Legare
Webmaster	Mr. Boston
Eagle Coordinator	Mr. Haight
Fundraising	Mrs. Barnett
Publicity Chair -	Mr. Schraml

Scoutmasters

Scoutmaster - Mr. Zeigler

Assistant Scoutmasters

Name	Specialty
Mr. Adams	Quartermaster
Mr. Beyer	Eagle Projects
Mr. Boston	
Mr. Coffin	
Mr. DiSalvo	Summer Camp
Mrs. Dolan	
Mr. Flohl	
Mr. Fronckowiak	
Mr. Fusco	
Mr. Gastio	Hiking
Mr. Grove	Leadership Training
Mr. Haight	Eagle Process
Mr. Hendricks	Summer Camp
Mr. Pavlo	
Mr. Mahoney	
Mr. Schmid	Scribe Advisor
Mr. Shultis	
Mr. Silverman	Merit Badge Counselor list
Mr. Smith	
Mr. Troy	
Mr. Wiley	

Scoutmaster's Meetings

Are held the last Wednesday of each month unless otherwise notified.

Aims And Methods Of The Scouting Program

The Scouting program works toward three aims. One is growth in moral strength and character. We may define this as what the boy is- his personal qualities, his values, his outlook

The second aim is participating citizenship. Used broadly, citizenship means the boy's relation ship others. He comes to learn of his obligations to other people, to the society he lives in and to the government that presides over that society.

The third aim is development of physical, mental and emotional fitness. Fitness includes the body (well tuned and healthy), the mind (able to think and solve problems), and emotions (self-control, courage and self-respect).

The 8 methods by which the aims are achieved are:

Ideals

The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. The Boy Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high, and, as he reaches for them, he has some control over what and who he becomes.

Patrols

The patrol method gives Boy Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where they can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through their elected representatives.

Outdoor Programs

Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose.

Advancement

Boy Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Boy Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

Leadership Development

The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Boy Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership role of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Adult Association

Boys learn from the example set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage of a young man's development.

Personal Growth

As Boy Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Boy Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is so successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method.

Uniform

The uniform makes the Boy Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Boy Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Boy Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals

Summer Camp

This is an annual event and one of the highlights of the program. The summer camp environment provides an opportunity for your boy to have fun, explore, meet new people, learn new skills, and more importantly, to be challenged by activities that they generally don't experience during the rest of the year.

It is a time for a Scout to make great advances in rank and in his personal development.

Troop 40 normally attends a week of summer camp during the beginning of July. Camp is six nights long (starts on Sunday, ends on Saturday). Activities include crafts, swimming, rank advancement opportunities in the Trail to First Class, merit badges, and optional boating or high adventure (usually for older Scouts). The location varies and is determined each year by the PLC. Hudson Valley Council operates and maintains Camp Ranaqua; however, the troop does not always attend this camp.

When a Scout cannot attend with the Troop (or desires to attend an additional week of camp), he may attend as a provisional camper and is put with other provisional Scouts to form a "Troop." Camp staff acts as the Scoutmasters for this group. Information on provisional opportunities is usually published in the newsletter.

Scouts attending as first year campers will be attending the "First Year Camper" program. This program focuses on the skills required for the ranks of Tenderfoot through First Class. The first year Scouts will also select 1-2 merit badges they would like to take. It is advisable to discuss these selections with his adult advisor prior to camp to allow for appropriate selection and preparation.

Duration/Homesickness

Camp runs 6-7 days. This is a long time for young scouts to be away from home and homesickness is common and expected. Be assured that both the troop 40 leaders who will be attending Summer camp and the camp staff are well versed in handling homesick scouts. Our advice to parents of new scouts is to let us handle the situation unless we call you and request your assistance. You'd be surprised how many scouts who are weepy-eyed on the telephone hang the phone up and dash off to a volleyball game with a smile on their face! We pay individual attention to each scout at camp and will inform you if we think we need assistance in handling the problem. Calls to home are not allowed.

Our advice is to send two or three letters, and in them maintain a cheerful spirit. Keep the talk about family cheerful but about ordinary events. Avoid talking a lot about family pets. You will be surprised at how much your son will "grow" during camp! Our approach, if your son does get homesick, will be to talk with him about using his homesickness as a tool for personal growth. One of our standard questions will be to ask him if he thinks he'll be homesick at age sixteen. Most will say, "No." Our response is to say, "Then we need to get you from here to there.... and we'll be with you all the way".

Packing for Summer Camp

Although your son will receive a specific list about 2 weeks prior to leaving for camp, a generic list is included here for those who like to prepare early.

- Completed BSA medical form
- Poncho or Rain gear
- Swim Trunks
- Complete Scout uniform
- Shirts (Class B)
- Shorts & long pants
- Underwear & socks
- Sleeping Bag or bedding
- Foam Pad
- Pillow
- Pajamas
- Sweater or Jacket
- Sneakers
- Hiking Shoes
- Mess Kit (some camps)
- Cup (drinking)
- Water Bottle
- Tooth brush/paste
- Bath Towels (2)
- Washcloth
- Comb
- Soap/Shampoo
- Flashlight & extra batteries
- Handbook
- Pencil, pen, pad

Optional: Insect Repellent, Sun Block, Sewing kit, wristwatch, Compass, Fishing gear.

Packing Tips

- Pack in a Plastic Trunk (Rubbermaid type)
- Pack clothes in plastic Ziplock bags (most will come home clean and unused)!
- Pack a plastic laundry bag for dirty clothes
- Have your son pack the trunk. He needs to know what is in there.
- Label Everything!!!!
- Don't send good stuff!

Miscellaneous Info

Electronics

Scouts should leave electronic devices at home. This includes video games and cell phones. The only exception is CD players / mp3 / tape players . **These may only be used after lights out** to aid in sleeping. They are not allowed to be used while traveling. Scouts should use that time to interact with each other, not shut each other out. Built in DVD players in vehicles should not be used.

Parents on trips

Any parent who wishes to accompany the Troop on any trip must take the **BSA Youth Protection training**. The course is scheduled by our Council, sometimes by the Troop, or can be taken online (see below). They must also fill out the **background check for St. Columba**. The Safe Environment form and proof of training **must be turned in to the Troop at least 2 weeks prior to the event**.

Youth Protection Online

- Go to www.scouting.org.
- Click "Youth Protection".
- Click "Boy Scout Leader Youth Protection Training".
- Select Login option.
- Select create an account option.
- Provide the requested information (Our council is "Hudson Valley Council"). You do not need to be a registered member and provide a reg #.
- Follow the directions and go through the training.
- Print the page at the end showing you have completed the training. Make 3 copies.
- If the certificate does not appear try logging out and back in to the E Learning page again. The Youth Protection training should show as complete and give you the option of displaying the certificate.
- Hand in two copies when you signup and keep one for yourself.

Scout Executive's Update

Summer Camp is Scouting "Are you signed up"?

Did you know that Summer Camp is Scouting at its best! Summer Camp is a proven tool for building personal values and social skills, according to a Harris Interactive study in 2001.

In just one year, Scouting delivers the following six critical areas of healthy youth development. Below are some ways that summer camp fits into the Scouting picture:

1. Strong Personal Values and Character
 - a. Making decisions at camp
 - b. Thinking about God and Religious Services
 - c. Flag Ceremonies
2. Positive Sense of Self-Worth and Usefulness
 - a. Listened to by other Scouts
 - b. Received a compliment from an adult counselor
 - c. Accomplished new things & cleaned up campsites/meals
3. Caring and Nurturing Relationships
 - a. Listened to others' opinions
 - b. Made a new friend
 - c. Feel they are among friends
4. Productive and Creative Use of Time
 - a. Learned a new skill from an adult
 - b. Worked with an adult on a project
5. A Desire to Learn
 - a. Try something you have never tried
 - b. Test a new skill
 - c. Learn about the environment
6. Social Adeptness
 - a. Meet new people
 - b. Help someone else accomplish something
 - c. Play sports and participate in a song/skit



Also in the same study, it found that more than 80% of parents indicated that summer camp resulted in a POSITIVE CHANGE in their sons. The top five positive changes were that he:

- Had a positive experience
- Became more confident/ increased self esteem
- Learned new skills
- Became more responsible
- Learned respect for others/developed social skills.
- Who wouldn't want those traits for their son?

Here's the good news: It is not too late to sign up for summer camp! If you would like your son to be a part of Cub Scout or Webelos Scout Resident Camp or a Cub Scout Day Camp in your area, call us today at 845-497-7337 and ask for our camping secretary, Bonny Gray (ext. 0). There are some spaces available in all of our Cub Scout day camps, but one. If you would like to son to attend Boy Scout Summer Camp, contact your local troop or your district executive today and they/we can tell you how to get your son enrolled today.

As we prepare for an exciting summer of programs at Camp Nooteming and Camp Bullowa, we are busy getting both camps ready. Look for new program areas, exciting theme oriented stations (Knights in the Woods!), and a new roof at Camp Bullowa's Dining Hall. We also have purchased new tents for Camp Nooteming. Terrific adults camp staffs have been recruited and trained and are anxious to put on a safe and interesting summer camp program.

See you in Summer Camp!

Yours truly,

Stephen J. Gray, Scout Executive

Message from National President Bob Mazzuca



Children, Scouting, and Nature

Hello again!

Recently, I had a great discussion with Frank Reigelman, our director of camping and conservation, about the importance of diverting our young people away from filling their time with the "indoor life" of TV, video games, and computer keyboards and introducing them to the wonders of nature and exploring the great outdoors. The long-forgotten yell of "I'm going to play outside" has often been replaced by "Has anyone seen my iPod?" Below are Frank's thoughts on the topic as this week's guest blogger:

In his 2005 book *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv coined the phrase "nature deficit disorder" to describe the impact on children of not playing out of doors. This book served notice to the outdoor community that many negative outcomes would result from the disconnect between children and nature.

There is tremendous debate in the outdoor recreation industry about the decline of children participating in outdoor activities. The shift has taken place in a generation. As recently as the 1960s and 1970s, children would play outside with few restrictions and with great spontaneity. Today's youngsters are routinely scheduled and seldom have an opportunity to simply play simply for the sake of fun.

Attendance at our national parks has declined during this period, and the hunting, fishing, and boating industries are experiencing a decrease in young people and families participating in the outdoors.

Some of the circumstances influencing this turn of events are:

The typical young person today spends six and one-half hours in front of a screen (computer, game, television, or cell phone) each day-over 45 hours per week!

Children today have "play dates"-scheduled in advance and carefully monitored-not likely to result in creative play.

Single-parent and two-working-parent families limit free-time activities.

Obesity is becoming an epidemic, and for the first time, life expectancies are predicted to decline by the middle of this century.

In the conservation movement, land managers wonder who will follow them as stewards of our natural resources. Because young people are not connected with nature, they are less likely to pursue careers in natural resource-related fields. In addition, there is a real possibility that this disinterest will carry over into public policy decisions affecting the future of public lands.

The Boy Scouts of America is in a position to have a positive impact on this trend. Scouting has always connected young people with nature and continues to use nature as its primary classroom for fun and adventure. With thousands of Scouts in long-term resident summer camp and attending weekend outings during the year, our members experience nature firsthand. They learn to appreciate nature, to adapt to changing conditions, and to leave the land better for the next camper.

Scouts perform countless service hours for parks and public lands annually, often providing labor that otherwise would not happen without Scouts doing a Good Turn. Scouting is the perfect antidote to "screen time." On a weekend outing, a boy may spend 36 to 48 hours in nature, more than balancing his time in front of a screen. This same outing will keep him active and improve his fitness, thereby addressing obesity rates. Most important, he is in an environment where he and his patrol members set the structure with ample time to explore the wonders of nature in an unhurried setting.

Ironically, safety is a concern cited by parents as a factor limiting outside play for their children. However, judging from the content of television and most video games, perhaps staying indoors is not a safe sanctuary after all. In fact, unsupervised use of the Internet carries a certain risk factor as children view adult-only Web sites or have contact with online predators. Factoring in the decline in fitness, the long-term impact of avoiding nature is profound.

For 98 years, the BSA has been the gateway to outdoor adventure for over 115 million members. More than any single organization, the BSA is in a position to "leave no child inside." Through our many chartered organizations and

relationships with federal, state, and local land agencies, we can reverse this trend and deliver the promise of Scouting to future generations and maintain the important role nature plays in the healthy development of our children.

I want to thank Frank for his excellent summary on this topic. The approach of our 100th Anniversary Celebration reminds us of our commitment to encourage our young people to embrace the excitement of outdoor activities and strive to be as "physically strong" as possible to lead healthy, productive lives. As Frank indicates in his guest blog, the importance of "leaving no child inside" to our future generations is tremendous.