



# Pack 436 News

April 2020

**Our Brave New World:** Due to the ongoing coronavirus outbreak and control measures, the BSA nationally has strongly encouraged us to stop conducting in-person meetings and activities at least through April 30, so until these measures are lifted (including the State of Maryland's stay at home order) any Pack in-person activities are cancelled or postponed, including the Pack hike, Spring Family Campout and the April Pack meeting.

A number of district events have also been postponed – ArcheryDay, the District Pinewood Derby, the BALOO adult leader training, and the District Court of Honor. If/when these events are able to reschedule, we will let you know, so keep your eyes on the Pack website and Scoutbook.

**Cubmaster Minute – from Howie:** It's hard to put into words how much I miss all the Scouts' smiling faces. I miss our hikes, I miss our campouts, and I miss our Den meetings. These are unprecedented times with all of our social lives and activities cancelled to attempt to halt the spread of this horrible virus. All that said, I want to point to some positives about Cub Scouting that can help to get us all through this. Cub Scouting provides a framework for parents to work with their Scouts on adventures that teach them life skills in a fun, but prescriptive fashion. I want to highlight this because, as we all look for ways to keep our children occupied and engaged while sheltered at home, Cub Scouting provides us a step-by-step guide. As much as we all would like to get together for meetings and outings, we can't, but that doesn't mean that scouting has to stop. In Cub Scouts, parents can act as their Scout's counselor to move through their adventures. You can use Scoutbook or your paper Scout Handbook to track requirements. You can go on hikes as a family while maintaining social distancing from others. You can camp in your yard...or in your living room. Let's try to continue to do the things that make Cub Scouting fun, and we'll hope to get together again after we've done our part to stop the spread of COVID-19.

## Virtual Scouting:

There are several ways to keep active in Scouting during these days of social distancing.

- Some Dens are still holding virtual meetings – please contact your Den Leaders with any questions about that option for your den.
- NCAC has also posted some information and activities online.
  - The BSA national organization has added a “Scouting at Home” website, including some Cub Scout-specific activities, and information on getting free online access to Boys Life; you can find it at <https://www.scouting.org/scoutingathome>
  - The 30-Day Scouting at Home Challenge has begun, but you could start it whenever

works for you. There are calendars of different daily activities for each level of Cub Scouts from Lions to Webelos. Visit

<https://weownadventure.com/scouting-at-home-challenge/>

- Fun Stay-at-Home activities organized by level at <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/03/19/fun-projects-for-kids-that-you-can-do-from-home/>
- You are welcome and encouraged to continue working on advancement and electives with your Scout(s) at home during this time. You can use Scoutbook to record which activities your Scout has completed. Scoutbook also has a description of the requirements for each adventure, if you do not have a paper copy of the Handbook.
  - After logging in to Scoutbook , click on your Scout's name from your Dashboard. Scroll past the images and click on "Advancement". Clicking on your Scout's current rank will bring up a list of requirements and then elective adventures.
  - Clicking into any adventure will bring up the requirements. Be sure to choose the most recent year listed (2016, usually) to get the updated requirements. Parents can then record activities as Scouts complete them.
  - NOVA/Stem Awards can also be earned – find them on Scoutbook under the "Awards" once you've clicked on your Scout's name.

### **Summer Camp:**

As we understand things at this time, the Council is still planning to hold summer camps.

If you're still interested but haven't had a chance to sign up, please contact:

- **For Camp Snyder (current Lions, Tigers, & Wolves) – Howie Draisen** ([hdraisen@hotmail.com](mailto:hdraisen@hotmail.com)): For the younger boys (current Lions, Tigers, and Wolves), Camp Snyder, located near Haymarket, VA, has weekend programs in the summer that are a great introduction to camping for the Scouts. We are planning to attend the July 30-August 2 session.
- **For Goshen / Camp PMI (current Webelos & Bears) – Dan Helgerman** ([helgermann@gmail.com](mailto:helgermann@gmail.com)): For the older Scouts (current Bears and Webelos), we are going to the Goshen Scout Reservation's Camp PMI, about 3.5 hours away, past Harrisonburg, VA, for the week of July 19-25 . We'll need at least 3 parents there at all times, and one or two more would be ideal, but you wouldn't have to stay the full week.

**Day Camp:** If the overnight camps won't work for your family this year, there are several day camp options. General information on NCAC day camps, is available at

<https://www.ncacbsa.org/program/cub-scouts/day-camp/>

Seneca District's Camp runs June 22-26 at Bretton Woods Recreation Center in Germantown; details at <https://scoutingevent.com/082-34395> ; if you're interested in coordinating attendance for our Pack, contact Eric for some more details.

There are two separate weeks of camp offered in Frederick County, at Thurmont Sportsman's Club in

Thurmont either June 29-July 3 or July 20-24. See <https://scoutingevent.com/082-34394> for details and their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/events/483073195678812/>) for updates. If you're interested in this option, the Washington family highly recommends it.