

Congratulate your Eagle Scout!

Congratulate an Eagle Scout in a Special Digital Edition of Scout Life

Scout Life is honored to introduce the special digital edition to honor and celebrate the Eagle Scout Class of 2020, including the inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts, all of whom earned the highest rank in the Scouts BSA program while navigating unprecedented challenges last year. Families with either a young man or young woman (or both!) who earned the Eagle Scout Award last year are welcome to commemorate their Scout's achievement in this issue.

To honor Scouts that earned the Eagle Scout rank in 2020, those who want to commemorate a Scout's achievement can buy an ad in a special digital edition of Scout Life, which will be available in the Scout Life app (available at the App Store and on Google Play) and on scoutlife.org at the end of January.

Submissions can include photos for each advertisement, as well as a special message. **The deadline to purchase an ad is January 27, 2021. Pricing is \$450 for a full-page ad, \$300 for a half-page ad and \$200 for a quarter-page ad.**

If you have any questions, please contact kendra.tidwell@scouting.org.

Learn More

Congressional Award Scouts Can Earn

In Congress, it's the rare subject about which there's unanimous agreement.

It's the Congressional Award, the highest recognition Congress bestows on young people. To qualify, a young person must meet certain goals in four key areas: voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness and expedition/exploration.

Are you thinking what I'm thinking? Yes, many of the activities young people enjoy in Scouting fit nicely into those four categories. Better yet, double-dipping is encouraged, meaning work on merit badges, rank requirements and Eagle projects counts toward the award.

This natural correlation explains why, in 1999, the BSA became partners with the Congressional Award Foundation, which remains Congress' only charity.

As jobs and colleges become increasingly more competitive, the Congressional Award – along with a young person's experience in Scouting – will look great on a résumé. That “something extra” is exactly what hiring managers and college admissions counselors want to see.

Scouts have been earning the Congressional Award ever since it was established in 1979. In 2019, at **least 75 of the 538 Congressional Award Gold Medal recipients were Scouts**. But I say it's time to raise that number even higher. The award is noncompetitive, meaning anyone who properly completes the requirements will receive the award.

Important: Scouts must register first

Before you consider retroactively counting Scouting experience toward the award, let me point out one key statement from the Congressional Award site: “This is not an award for past accomplishments. Instead, you are honored for achieving your own challenging goals after registering for the program.”

That means your Scouts should register for the award as soon as possible after turning 13.5 years old, giving them the maximum amount of time to count Scouting requirements toward their progress.

But even if your Scout or Venturer is 16, 17 or older, all hope is not lost. They have until their 24th birthday to complete the requirements.

‘Things I was already doing in Scouting’

After registering, any qualifying activity – in school, Scouting or another extracurricular activity – can count toward the award. That fact is confirmed in the award’s FAQs: “If you belong to groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Venturing, 4-H, etc., your activities may often be used to achieve a particular goal.”

That was certainly the case for Eagle Scout Todd Christian, who earned the Congressional Award in 2019, at age 23.

“I completed all of the requirements for the program exclusively through the things I was already doing through Scouting,” he says.

Christian earned the Gold Medal, which is the highest of the Congressional Award’s six levels. That top honor includes an invite to the national award ceremony in Washington, D.C., where honorees meet other recipients as well as their congressional representatives. (Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s ceremony was held virtually.)

The Gold Medal requires at least 400 hours of volunteer time, 200 hours of personal development, 200 hours of physical fitness, and an expedition of at least five days and four nights.

“Essentially, anyone who completes a multiday trek as well as a comprehensive service project – what we call an Eagle project – has already overcome a major hurdle to receiving the top award,” Christian says.

The entry-level award – the Bronze Certificate – is within even closer reach for most Scouts. It requires 30 hours of volunteer service, 15 hours of personal development, 15 hours of physical fitness, and a one-day expedition or exploration.

“Virtually every Scout has met these requirements many times over, just by being a Scout,” Christian says.

Learn more about the program and how you can earn your award.

[Read More](#)

Merit Badge Requirement Updates

The following merit badges have been updated as of January 1, 2021.

- Archaeology (4b; requirements 8-11 reordered)
- Collections (1, 5a, 5c, 5e, 5f; deleted 7; added 3d)
- Digital Technology (5b)
- Disability Awareness (1a, 1b)
- Electricity (10)
- Fish and Wildlife Management (3)

- Fishing (10)
- Fly-Fishing (10, 11)
- Lifesaving (1, 2, 15, 16)
- Motorboating (1a, 2a, 3a, 4, 5a, 5c)
- Photography (1a, 1b)
- Public Health (1)
- Rowing (2)
- Sports (1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 4)
- Theater (5, added 3j)
- Woodwork (7)

[Learn More](#)

New Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook

There is a new Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook available. Please make sure that your Life Scout is using the correct workbook when requesting a project review from the district. Download the new workbook. For more information and details contact your district advancement chairperson.

[Learn More](#)

Scout Sunday, Scout Sabbath & Scout Jumuah 2021

Through a trio of faith-based celebrations known as Scout

Sunday, Scout Sabbath and Scout Jumuah, young people give back to the chartered organizations that give them so much.

Proposed Eagle Scout Merit Badge Delayed

January 7, 2021

The introduction of the proposed Diversity, Equity and Inclusion merit badge is being delayed to allow for the careful consideration and evaluation of feedback received from a wide variety of commenters on the draft requirements. Until further notice, all Scouts working on the Eagle Scout rank should continue to use current rank requirements. Once the Eagle-required Diversity, Equity and Inclusion merit badge is introduced, Scouts in the process of earning the rank of Eagle Scout will be given adequate time to earn it.

Specific questions are welcome via email at Officeof.ChiefDiversityOfficer@scouting.org.

Order of the Arrow Lodge Leadership Update

In the midst of uncertainty, turmoil, and change, it is easy to become overwhelmed. Strong leadership is essential in

helping us navigate through rough waters and the Tantamous Lodge has been blessed with exceptional leadership! Several of our Lodge's youth leaders have gone on to serve in key positions for our Area and at the National level of the Order of the Arrow. We are proud of these young leaders and all they have and will accomplish as they serve this great organization! In addition to our youth leaders, our adult advisors have played a significant role in developing the qualities in our young people that have led to their elevation to these esteemed positions. I want to personally thank Josh Paulin for serving as Tantamous' first Lodge Advisor and setting us on a path toward greatness. For the past year, Candy Martel has served as our Lodge Advisor, through one of the most challenging years anyone can remember. The dedication, commitment, flexibility, and grace she has shown through this year is truly amazing! Her contributions will pay dividends for generations to come.

As we begin a new year, we have our third Lodge Advisor stepping up to assist in the development of the youth in Tantamous Lodge. Mark Vecchione will serve as our new Lodge Advisor and will guide our Lodge through the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. I am excited about our youth and adult leadership and look forward to seeing all they will do to serve the brotherhood in the coming months.

In Brotherhood,

Bryan Feather
Scout Executive
Supreme Chief of the Fire

2021 Virtual Merit Badge University

Due to overwhelming response, VMBU is no longer able to accept registrations. We are exploring ways to offer other virtual merit badge events in the future, be sure to subscribe to [Mayflower Today](#), our [Mayflower Council Facebook page](#) and our [website](#) for details as they become available.

We are excited to announce our 1st ever Virtual Merit Badge University (VMBU).

The Virtual Merit Badge University offers Scouts the opportunity to earn merit badges, both eagle and non-eagle required with the help of our merit badge counselors. The VMBU will run the entire month of March 2021 so there will be a variety of times to choose from.

Registration will open on February 1 at 8:00 AM and close February 19 at 11:55 PM. All sessions will be through Google Classroom and Google Meet and links will be provided in the confirmation email, **please keep this for your records.**

VMBU will be by individual vs unit sign up.

Individuals are urged to sign up as soon

as possible as these classes will fill up fast.

The cost is \$5.00 per registrant plus \$10.00 per merit badge.

Scouts should review with and receive permission from their Scoutmaster before registering for any merit badge. Scouts are responsible to review the pre-class requirements and come prepared to the first VMBU class.

Virtual Merit Badge Schedule
Participant Expectations

Now that we have our Virtual Merit Badge University schedule finalized, we are recruiting for Assistant Counselors who will serve as part of the two deep leadership requirements for all virtual classrooms. If you were reluctant to lead a course but would be interested in assisting the lead in a class, please use the link below to view the badges, schedule, and to volunteer to assist. You will be put in contact with lead counselor to plan out how you will work together. If you have any questions, please email: mbu@mayflowerbsa.org

Register To Become An Assistant Counselor

Summer Camp 2021

Make Your Summer Camp Plans

Now!

Mayflower Council is giving you more options for the Summer of 2021!



Cub Scouts Rock!

Cub Adventure Day Camp, located at Camp Resolute in Bolton, MA will once again offer an outstanding weekday program for boys and girls completing grades 1-4. Now in its 48th year, Adventure Day Camp provides traditional Scout games and achievement opportunities, archery, BB instruction, nature, sports, swimming, fishing and outdoor camp skills. From 9:00am to 4:00pm, Monday-Friday, our young people are challenged with ongoing activities that will help them develop self-confidence, independence and teamwork skills. Cub Adventure Day Camp will run six one-week sessions from July 12 – August 20. *Get set for a rockin' great time!*

Weekly Overnight Troop Adventures!



Camp Squanto is Mayflower Council's designated resident summer camp, for 2021, for week-long summer camp fun! Located in

Plymouth, MA, Camp Squanto is situated on 650 acres deep in the woods of Myles Standish State Forest with its own private, natural pond. With 14 campsites to choose from, since 1925, Camp Squanto continues to offer a unique, Cape Cod-style wooded experience with archery, .22 rifle and skeet ranges, nature, sports, swimming, sailing, fishing and outdoor Scout skills. Typically, Scout Troops attend as a unit for a Sunday-Saturday experience. However, individual Scouts are also encouraged to attend and join in with other Scouts who form a Troop for a week. Camp Squanto is fully equipped with activity areas, expansive waterfront, new showers, flush toilets, a trading post, Scout Museum and a beautiful Dining Hall pavilion. Camp Squanto will offer six one-week sessions from July 11 – August 21. *Let the adventures begin!*



Scouts BSA Day Experiences!

Camp Resolute re-imagined! An exciting new day program is being developed that will offer a weekly summer day experience for all Scouts BSA members. Think of it as an outdoor adventure park operating daily Monday – Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm! You'll be able to choose traditional Scout activities and advancement programs like nature, campcrafts and outdoor cooking or enjoy our outdoor climbing course, archery, rifle shooting, fishing, boating, sailing and swimming and much more! Our Resolute day experience program will run six one-week sessions from July 12 – August 20. *You set your pace – you set your experience!*

But that's not all for Camp Resolute – stay tuned as we set the future course for a brand new twist on the camp we all

love. We promise you an entirely new experience! Stay tuned for more information and details!

Philmont Scout Ranch!

This promises to be the highlight of your Scouts life – many consider it a life-changing experience!

A special contingent limited to 12 Scouts will head to the 200 square mile BSA's premier National High Adventure area located in New Mexico for a 12 day backpacking adventure traversing at least 50 miles along the rocky, rugged terrain of the Sangre De Christo mountains. Along the way, our Crew will participate in programs that combine the best of the old West – horseback riding, burro packing, gold panning, rock climbing, burro racing, meals over stoves and fires and campfires under a gazillion stars that light up the night sky. Scouts must be at least 14 years old and advisors at least 21.

More info on all these Summer 2021 experiences now available

Adventure Day Camp

Scouts BSA Day Camp

Scouts BSA Resident Camp

Mayflower Council Camps

All Mayflower Camps are led by trained camp and program directors who are certified by National BSA Camp Schools. Our camps are certified by a camp visitation team approved by the Boy Scouts of America, licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Accredited by the American Camp Association and comply with regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and are licensed by the local board of health. All adults involved in our Camp Programs have undergone specific leadership training as well as updated Youth Protection certification.

December Training Newsletter

Click image to download



Pandemic Update

Our current training offerings continue to be limited as we abide by council limits on group gatherings, council-run activities, and overnight camping. These limits are based on state and local restrictions. They continue to be evaluated as the pandemic situation evolves.

Here are a few key points to know:

1. **We encourage everyone to take as much training as they can get online.** It's available 24/7 at <https://my.scouting.org>.
 - o If you need to renew your **Youth Protection Training (YPT)**, this is the way to do it.
 - o You can complete **Position-Specific Training** (for the "Trained" patch) for almost every Scouting position through BSA online.
2. **We're also running local webinars.** Our volunteer trainers are continuing to run a series of online training sessions on various topics of interest. Please see the calendar at right, and check the weekly Mayflower Council email for additions to the list.
3. **BALOO training continues to be a challenge.** BALOO training (overnight camping skills) is still required if you take Cub Scouts camping. We know of several packs who have been held back by this rule because we haven't been able to run BALOO training since late 2019. We understand and share your frustration. We've looked into various possibilities for waivers and workarounds, but the National office's policies have not changed. Our current plan is to attempt to run BALOO in some form (if it can be allowed) in early spring 2021.
4. **First aid training options may be available soon.** We are evaluating first aid certification options as the American Red Cross (our training partner) continues to update its options for class structure and format. Please stay tuned for more details!

Renew Youth Protection Training

Time is running out to renew your Youth Protection Training (YPT)! All registered adult leaders must have current YPT status in order to recharter with a pack, troop, or crew for 2021. A large percentage of leaders last took YPT during 2018, which means the 2-year training has expired or is about to expire. The only way to renew this training right now is at <https://my.scouting.org>. You only need to take the "mandatory" version (it says it's a bit more than 1 hour), but you do need to make sure you do all four parts (three modules plus the quiz).

Upcoming Online Opportunities



° = pre-registration required * = online registration open
* = counts toward basic requirements for adults

- Dec 13*** Cub Leader Position-Specific (Part 1 of 2)
- Dec 19** Den Chief Training Workshop

Den Chief Training on December 19

A Den Chief is a Scouts BSA (or Venturing) member who helps lead activities with a Cub Scout den. We call it a "win-win-win-win": the older youth gets a confidence-building leadership experience, the Cub Scouts get a role model who can inspire them to grow in Scouting, the pack gets a valuable helping hand, and the troop gets a recruiter. That's why we encourage every Cub Scout pack to connect with local troops and recruit Den Chiefs!

By popular demand, we'll be running a custom webinar version of **Den Chief Training** on **Saturday morning, December 19, 9:00–11:30 AM**. This training will focus on the roles and responsibilities of a Den Chief, tips and techniques for success, and activity ideas and practice. The BSA already offers online training at www.scouting.org/training/youth/den-chief-training, which can be a useful introduction for any Den Chief. Our session will provide the same "basic training" credit, but it also includes the opportunity to interact with other people, ask questions, and discuss practical tips—including ideas for how to be an effective Den Chief during COVID. We wish we could do it in person, but we'll try our best to capture some of the same fun online!

This course is free (no patches, snacks, or materials, so no charge!). Register at www.mayflowerbsa.org/training.

Cub Leaders: Get Trained With Us!

Calling all Den Leaders, Cubmasters, and Pack Committee Members: if you haven't taken your Position-Specific Training on My.Scouting yet, join us on **December 13 at 7 PM** for the first half in a live webinar. It's the same material, but with the chance to ask questions, share ideas, and get useful tips from fellow leaders. Please encourage your fellow leaders to join us!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Council training "Quick Guides" and online registration: www.mayflowerbsa.org/training
- BSA online training: <https://my.scouting.org>
- Council training chair: Chris Lamie: chris.lamie@gmail.com
- Staff contact: Kat Nussbaumer: kat@mayflowerbsa.org

EVERY SCOUT DESERVES TRAINED LEADERS!