WHAT IS IT? The National Outdoor Conference is Scouting’s largest gathering of volunteers and professionals charged with delivering the world’s greatest outdoor program for youth! It’s four days of networking, elective sessions, outstanding keynote speakers, outdoor vendor exhibits, clean mountain air, backcountry excursions, special program opportunities, great music and entertainment, and fellowship with Scouting’s top outdoor leaders. Join fellow Scouters and outdoor enthusiasts from across the country to learn new methods, share ideas, and check out the latest in outdoor gear and programs. This is the place to be if you are involved in any way with outdoor programs.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Anyone and everyone involved in national, region, area, council, district, and unit outdoor program delivery. There is something for everyone!

WHERE IS IT? Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, New Mexico

WHEN IS IT? September 25 – 29, 2019

REGISTRATION: To download the full brochure and to register, click here.
Incident Reporting—A Call to Action

Reporting incidents that occur during our outdoor programs is a critical component of managing BSA programs. As an organization, we can all learn from a near miss or an incident – but only if a report is filed. Timely notification of serious incidents enables scene investigation, evidence collection proper notification required under our insurance agreements, and media support. It also allows helps us make sure mandatory reporting requirements are met. While the safety of our youth is our top concern, when incidents do occur we all need to help mitigate other potential impacts.

New Incident Reporting Requirements, which are effective immediately, are linked below. Serious incidents as defined in these requirements will need to be reported to the regional and area director and to pr@scouting.org as soon as reasonably possible and incident reports will need to be submitted online within 24 hours. Online incident reports on serious youth-protection violations, membership standards infractions and medical treatment beyond first-aid will need to submitted within 72 hours. Other less-serious incidents and near-misses are to be reported in accordance with our other guidelines available at the Scouting.org health and safety website: https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/.

Online reporting is available through the Riskonnect portal available to all councils as well as to volunteers. The process for submitting reports has been streamlined and simplified so please ensure all appropriate staff members review and comply with these requirements.

Together we can all contribute to a better outdoor adventure by following the incident reporting requirements.

Mark Rose
Frank Reigelman
10 reasons why you simply won’t want to miss the 2019 National Outdoor Conference!

By Bryan Wendell with “Bryan on Scouting”

1. **You can customize everything!** Attendees will select up to 12 workshop sessions from a list of more than 100 options — all taught by subject matter experts. You won’t need to preregister for individual sessions. Simply show up and get the knowledge you crave.

2. **There’s something for everyone.** No matter which “Scouting hats” you’ll wear this year, you’ll find dozens of sessions that directly apply to you. Sessions are divided into one of seven “trails.” (Note: You can mix and match, selecting sessions from more than one trail.) Enterprise Risk Management Trail; Facility Management Trail; Human Resources Trail; Management and Administration Trail; Marketing and Promotions Trail; National Adventures Trail; Program Administration Trail

3. **You can geek out on the details.** Don’t expect a superficial overview of outdoor programs. Each workshop session will dive deep to give you practical tips for solving your council’s toughest challenges. Learn how to better manage the paperwork for your seasonal staff. Discover why zero-impact hammock camping could be right for your camp. See how a better fishing program could help you recruit and retain more Scouts. In the outdoors, the details matter.

4. **You’ll learn from experts.** National- and council-level experts teach the elective workshops, with many bringing decades of experience to their sessions. At the three general sessions, all attendees will be inspired and enlightened by the 2019 National Outdoor Conference keynote speakers: Michael Surbaugh: Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America; Dr. Deborah Gilboa: Parenting expert who will deliver a talk called “Why Camp Makes People Stressed and How Camp Can Help”; Tom Rosenberg: CEO of the American Camp Association

5. **You’ll learn from other Scouterṣ.** At conferences I’ve attended, I find myself learning as much from my fellow attendees as I do from the sessions themselves. High-quality presenters attract high-quality attendees. The same will be true at the National Outdoor Conference, where your fellow volunteers and professionals will be eager to listen to your ideas and share their own.

Additionally, the conference will offer an area for councils to share literature and materials with others. You can show off your council’s best program ideas and pick up something new from another council.

6. **There’s an app.** A conference app, new for 2019, will help attendees keep track of their schedule and find their way around using their smartphones. Now that’s smart.

7. **You’ll get to enjoy Philmont’s backcountry.** No trip to Philmont is complete without some time in Philmont’s backcountry. That’s why organizers cleared the schedule after lunch on Saturday to give attendees an afternoon of fun. More than a dozen options are available. Explore Philmont’s trails on a mountain bike, hike to Lover’s Leap or take a driving tour of Philmont’s backcountry camps. As with everything else at the conference, the choice is yours.

8. **You can test the latest gear.** Exhibits are open Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning for attendees to check out the latest products and services from some of the world’s best outdoor companies. Test the latest gear before making purchase recommendations to your council.
9. You can add on preconference courses. Maximize your time at Philmont by adding on a preconference course. Add on a course like advanced photography, chain saw training or the marketing boot camp. This extra time is certain to be time well spent.

10. It’s at Philmont. This cannot be emphasized enough. You should take any excuse you can get to spend time at Philmont, a signature Scouting destination. September’s a great time to be there, with crisp nights and warm days expected.

Thank you Diamond Brand! As the title sponsor for the 2019 National Outdoor Conference, Diamond Brand is providing a custom complementary piece of gear from Diamond Brand to commemorate the conference.

Philmont Continues BSA Family Adventure Camp Facility Build Out

Philmont Scout Ranch installed 20 deluxe, two-room tents at the Philmont Training Center in June! A new tier of camping available year round, these new deluxe tents can sleep up to 6 per tent and feature upgraded furniture, linens and an incredible view of the Tooth of Time.

For more information about the BSA Family Adventure Camp facilities and programs, visit [https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/family-adventure-camp/](https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/family-adventure-camp/)

These upgraded, new facilities are available during the National Outdoor Conference! Select your deluxe tent housing option when you register online for the fall national outdoor conference.
Summer Camp Revamped

Attention Camp Directors and dining hall managers – are you looking for proven resources to enhance your food service operations? Thanks to a three-year engagement between the BSA and Penn State PRO Wellness, a robust “tool kit” is available with resources to help your dining hall and trading post shift to healthier options. There are also tools to implement a “step up challenge” to increase activity levels at your camp.

The toolkit contains information on dining hall modifications, trading post modifications, food access standards and the Step Up Challenge. With three summers of study, the program has constantly dispelled commonly held “myths” about summer camp food operations. Campers will in fact eat healthier meals and opt for healthier products in the trading post. This is not an either-or program, rather it is a shift in menu items and product mixes that meet the needs of today’s families and campers. News flash – pilot camps have seen a drop is dining hall waste and trading post sales have maintained and often increased with new products.

The toolkit can help your camp address NCAP standards:

FS-601 – Food Planning
FS-602 – Kitchen Facilities
FS-603 – Food Preparation and Storage
FS-604 – Food Storage
FS-605 – Food Disposal
FS-606 – Dishwashing
FS-607 – Food on Trek Programs

Representatives of Penn State PRO Wellness will be at the National Outdoor Conference and are co-hosting the Secrets of a Successful Camp Kitchen pre-conference in September. Don’t go it alone when it comes to food service. These resources are a proven path to better nutrition and healthier campers and staff.

A word of thanks. Dr. Jeannie Arnold, Executive Board member was challenged by then BSA President Dr. Robert Gates, to take on a project to improve the health and nutrition of youth. Dr. Arnold has been a champion of this effort from the beginning and has shaped a program that will positively impact youth for years.
Camp Ranger Continuing Education

Attention Camp Rangers, are you looking for options to obtain Continuing Education Hours (CEH) for 2020?

On a national-level, the BSA is offering the following:

- **Ranger Trade School** – Philmont, September 15-21, 2019
- **National Outdoor Conference** – Philmont, September 25-29, 2019. Multiple opportunities: the entire conference would satisfy the requirements. And you should also consider the Fiscal Management 1 pre-conference for a deep dive in BSA budgeting and practices.
- **CEH Course at Camp Naish** – November 1-3, 2019 – Drinking and Waste Water Basic. Send an email to outdoorprograms@scouting.org if interested. Registration will open later this year.

Locally, Rangers and their supervisor can select any subject deemed important to personal development or for the betterment of the camp that is comprised of 12 learning-hours. Learning-hours can be any combination of classroom or hands-on activities. Additionally, learning-hours can be mixed and matched.

**AND DON’T MISS OUT** – Councils interested in hosting Ranger CEH programs can attend an elective at the National Outdoor Conference in September to learn the requirements to conduct a course.

**Camp Ranger Basic 2019-2020 Schedule**

- November 3-8, 2019 – Naish Scout Reservation, Bonner Springs, KS
- January 19-24, 2020 – Bert Adams Scout Camp, Covington, GA
- February 2-7, 2020 – Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, NM
- March 15-20, 2020 – Yawgoog Scout Reservation, Rockville, RI

**Camp Ranger Continuing Education eLearning from Scouting U**

Scouting University has four categories of online training. There is no cost to take these courses.

1) **Chemicals**

- Compressed Gas Safety
- Chlorine Safety
- Hazardous Material Handling and Storage
2) Equipment Operations
- Lockout/Tagout
- Aerial Work Platforms
- Trenching and Excavation Safety
- Indoor Hoisting and Rigging
- Welding, Cutting and Brazing

3) Health
- Office Ergonomics
- Heat Stress Recognition and Prevention
- Mold Awareness
- Confined Spaces
- Back Safety and Injury Prevention

4) Safety
- Hazardous Materials in the Workplace
- Signs and Tags
- Portable Fire Extinguishers
- Scaffolding Safety

To access these Skillsoft modules, Log into MyBSA
  > Resources
    > Scouting University Employee Learn Center
      > Outdoor Programs
        > Ranger Training

BSA Chain Saw Training Update
The BSA Chain Saw training No. 20-136 will be retired and replaced by a new, more in-depth, hands-on lesson plan. The new training – BSA Chain Saw Training-Level 1; No. 430-136 includes eight-hours of instruction and four-hours of hands on training. The new facilitator’s guide and learners journal will be released at the National Outdoor Conference at Philmont in September.

IMPORTANT NCAP REMINDER – The plan requires Rangers to work one-year in advance to satisfy NCAP Standard SQ-404. CEH’s earned in 2019 are applied to the 2020 standards; CEH’s acquired in 2020 satisfy 2021 and so on.
Florida Sea Base Designated a Clean Marina

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Clean Boating Partnership has designated the Florida National High Adventure Sea Base a **Clean Marina** through the Florida Clean Marina Program. The FSB team implemented and is following the “Best Management Practices” (BMPs) of the marine industry as part of the base’s commitment to be a premiere facility in the Keys.

This commitment to making a difference in Florida’s conservation efforts displays exemplary environmental stewardship. In addition, program participation earns facilities the recognition as an environmentally-responsible operation. Following the outlined BMPs and being prepared for emergencies, such as spills or hurricanes, will further prevent negative environmental impacts caused by pollutants.

The Florida Clean Marina Program (CMP) is a voluntary, partnership-driven initiative that encourages marina facilities to incorporate environmental Best Management Practices (BMPs) exceeding regulatory requirements. Aligning with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s strategic goals, CMP aims to create partnerships with local communities and businesses to protect natural resources and promote economic growth.

To obtain CMP designation, facilities must follow all regulatory requirements of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, maintain environmentally responsible business practices and implement the provided BMPs. These BMPs address critical environmental issues such as sensitive habitats, waste management, stormwater control, spill prevention and emergency preparedness. Program participants receive ongoing technical support from the Florida Clean Marina Program staff, the Clean Boating Partnership and mentors who volunteer their time to assist other marine facilities seeking designation.

FLOOD - FIRE – SEVERE STORM?

If your camp has been impacted by Natural Disaster, you should contact the National Outdoor Program & Properties Team. We are standing by to provide recovery assistance. We have been there and seen that. We can help you avoid costly mistakes! Your work will be given priority treatment.

*Frank Reigelman*  
972-580-2074

*Dave Cornell*  
972 -580-2412

*John Stewart*  
972-580-2411
Welcome Scouts BSA New Troops!

This June, Pee Dee Area Council’s Camp Coker enjoyed having its first group of female Scouts BSA. The theme for this summer was the 50th anniversary of the moon walk, and lots of space age chants and cheers rang out during assemblies and campfires.

This short video features these high-spirited, young Scouts learning a square lashing, and then using it to build a Scout Stave Launcher, which they then played with in fine fashion. Their participation in this Scout Skills Challenge not only led to experiencing success, but resulted in winning a blue ribbon for shooting a tennis ball farther than any other patrol at camp.

VIEW THE VIDEO: https://youtu.be/DGOg8gtGyaw

Outdoor Ethics Leave No Trace Master Educator Courses

This five-day, five-night course trains interested individuals ages 18 and up to serve as Leave No Trace Master Educators. Master Educators work with their council's Outdoor Ethics Advocates to provide Leave No Trace Trainer, BSA Leave No Trace 101 and other outdoor ethics awareness training.

- **Prerequisite:** Prior completion of a Leave No Trace Trainer course is recommended. A person who has not previously attended a Trainer course may be accepted with the recommendation of the council's Outdoor Ethics Advocate or approval of the course's Lead Instructor. Each BSA Master Educator course is taught by a set of nationally-designated Master Educator Instructors, so your Master Educator standing is recognized nationally by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics.

See this link for the complete course schedule: http://outdoorethics-bsa.org/training/me_courses.php

Participants in the August 2018 Leave No Trace Master Educator course hosted by the Crossroads of America Council with trash they collected in the Hoosier National Forest’s Charles Dean Wilderness. The second weekend of the course included a three-day canoeing trip in the wilderness area where the
Lyme Disease Awareness

Denver, Colorado, USA (May 1, 2019) — In support of the month of May’s focus on Lyme disease awareness, the LivLyme Foundation is encouraging the public to download the free TickTracker app, which is available at the Google Play and Apple app stores. Created by 14-year-old Olivia Goodreau to help combat tick-transmitted infections and diseases, the app uses a patent-pending algorithm to coordinate multiple tick-activity data sources into a simple and user-friendly map view. TickTracker continues to grow and has users in countries across the globe. It is Olivia’s hope that the app will become more of a key data resource for scientists and government agencies in the United States that are combating ticks and tick-borne disease expansion. The plan is to continue developing the app into multiple languages so that everyone can have access in their native tongue. Currently, the app’s technology is available in English, French and Spanish with easy distribution in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia.

The federal government has rallied around the promotion of the free app to the public, selecting TickTracker as a part of the 2018 The Opportunity Project’s (TOP) Sprint Program. After completing the 14-week program, TickTracker was a focal point in the Census Bureau’s TOP Demo Day, which showcased 20+ new innovative tech tools to more than 15 governmental agencies searching for effective ways to solve some of the world’s most critical challenges. Olivia’s TickTracker app was also selected by the Department of Health and Human Services as one of the most impactful technological creations coming out of the TOP Health Sprint. This recognition garnered Olivia an invitation to present at the TOP Health Showcase on the White House grounds at the request of the Presidential Innovation Fellows and Department of Health and Human Services.

In addition to providing real-time and historic data on an interactive map using geolocation, users can report tick sightings and bites. The life-saving app also educates users, especially kids, about tick identification, prevention and safety through game-based learning. Olivia contracted Lyme disease during a family vacation while in the first grade, but she was not diagnosed with the illness until years 18-months after going through a battery of tests and seeing 51 doctors. This experience prompted her to devote countless hours to the cause by supporting research and organizing fundraising events through the LivLyme Foundation. However, her greatest contribution to date may be the creation of the life-saving TickTracker app.

Lyme is one of the fastest growing vector-borne diseases. Every year, more than 350,000 people contract the illness, while many of them never get a 'bullseye' rash or even know they were bitten. Lyme disease can be transmitted from mosquito bites, rodents, mother-to-child transmission, and many other ways. Based on current usage, TickTracker has a goal to develop the largest collection of tick sightings and tick reports in the world to further the global effort to eradicate tick-borne disease. TickTracker collects tick photos that are shared with Lyme labs and research facilities to help scientists better track tick populations and ultimately aid in their research for a cure to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. Which is why it is vital that the public is aware of the free TickTracker app across the globe. Representatives of the LivLyme Foundation will be at the National Outdoor Conference with more information about Lyme Disease and the TickTracker App.
Inspired Outdoor Adventure PowerPoint Presentation

During the National Annual Meeting, the Camping Subcommittee presented a program called “Inspired Outdoor Adventure”. The discussion introduced concepts for Unit level creation of exciting and inspiring outdoor activities that entice Scouts to experience new and stretching opportunities in the outdoors. The Subcommittee also introduced The Adventure Plan (TAP) now available on tap.scouting.org which provides Unit leaders a digital tool kit of all resources useful in planning and conducting outdoor adventures. Also introduced were Google Maps of 55 Council operated High Adventure bases and 192 Historic Trails. These are great tools for outdoor adventure serving the new Scouting market place of boys and girls (49.8 MM total youth in America).


Philmont Training Center Outdoor Program Week September 15-21, 2019

Register Soon! Don’t Miss Out!

Fall is a beautiful time to be in Scouting Paradise, Philmont Scout Ranch. Every fall the Outdoor Programs and Properties team offer a number of training sessions dedicated to outdoor activities. Some are perennial favorites like Climbing Director Certification and Certified Angling Instructor, but there is always something new too. This year we are offering a new outdoor cooking class and a visual storytelling session. Check out the full lineup below. Register online here.

CAI Director’s Course
Camp Cooking in Action
Camp Ranger Trade School
Certified Angling Instructor Course
Climbing Director
Conservation USA and Hornaday Advisor Training
Delivering the Outdoor Ethics Program in your Units, District and Council
Strategic Analysis for Council Properties
Shooting Sports
Visual Storytelling
Wilderness First Aid
Summit Bechtel Reserve Mountaineer Program

Take me home to the place where I belong...... The Summit in beautiful West Virginia!

Never been to the Summit or like to come back for another week? The Summit is excited to announce our new “Mountaineer Program” for Scouters over the age of 21 who would like to volunteer for a week on staff at the Summit.

You can volunteer for one of the many program areas or commissioner service; summer camp, medical, training center support, maintenance, transportation and more.

For additional information on how to apply for the Summit Mountaineer program go to the Summit website: www.Summit.Scouting.org and complete the Summit Mountaineer interest survey. A member of the Summit staff will follow up with you.

As a Summit Mountaineer volunteer, you will receive:
- Housing in one of our new airconditioned dormitories
- All Meals
- Summit Staff Shirt
- Limited Edition Summit Mountaineer Patch

Our first Summit Mountaineer was Dr. Roger Wujek from Lichfield, Illinois who volunteered a week of medical service in the Health Lodge.
West Virginia University - New Scouting Degree Programs: Talking Points for Summer Camp Staff

Thank you for sharing information about the new BSA & WVU – Scouting Degree Programs with Scouts in your council this summer! The intent of the partnership is to create a path for Scouts who are interested in pursuing professional Scouting and adventure recreation careers.

Here you will find the Professional Scouting & WVU Degree Programs – Talking Points, to use for recruiting Scouts and camp staff this summer.

Proposed Action Items – Below is a list of proposed action items that will help Scouts in your council learn more about careers in professional Scouting and the new degree programs:

**Watch Chief Scout Executive, Mike Surbaugh** explain the objectives of the new degree programs and share with Council Staff (2 minutes).

**Point of Contact** – Connect with the Degree Programs – Point of Contact in your Council and support their efforts to share Degree Program information with Scouts in your council.

**It’s not too late for Fall 2019** – There is still time to join the first Scouts to enroll in the programs. Encourage Scouts who are interested in finding an educational path for this fall to contact us at BeAProfessional@Scouting.org.

**Summer Camp Weekly Presentations** – Identify a camp staff member to:
- Present the attached talking points,
- Show or share the Mike Surbaugh video,
- Collect interest from council camp staff, participants, and adult advisors.

**Council Website and Social Media** – Post the Mike Surbaugh video and degree programs information on your council website and through your council social media channels.

**Read** Bryan’s Blog, visit go.wvu.edu/scouts, and email BeAProfessional@Scouting.org to learn more.

Thanks so much for supporting Scouts in your council who might be interested to learn more about professional scouting careers! With your guidance and direction, they will become the future of Scouting!
NCAP Spotlight

Have you completed all your NCAP Scoresheets? Are you in compliance with the Boy Scouts of America in operating your summer programs?

As part of your council’s summer programs you must be following the National Camp Accreditation Program (NCAP) and part of that process is making certain that an assessment happens at that property and program. Accidentally we all miss things and one thing that is missed more than most is turning in your Day Camp, Family Camp and property scoresheets.

Each council property is required to have an NCAP assessment with an official scoresheet being completed and processed. This assessment is done by one of 2 groups:

1. If it is running an accredited program (Resident camp, high adventure base etc. then it is done by the area;
2. If it is a short-term camping spot or a family camp or day camp then it is self-assessed by a trained council team as part of the program assessment.

Either way a scoresheet is completed and recorded.

The National Standards are here to help councils keep our youth safe, our camps meeting the brand of the Boy Scouts of America, and to set a minimum level of service to our participants. They are here to help councils have a great program that is safe, fun and successful.

Questions? Contact NCAP@Scouting.org

National Camping Report

The 2019 Camping Report is ready and you can start entering data as of August 15th. An email will be sent to all councils with the specific instructions in July on how and where to enter the data. This report, like every other year, asks for the camping data that your council has had from September 1, 2018 to August 30, 2019.

This year’s report is very similar to the 2018 report (like was promised) except with the addition of specific information about Scouts BSA attendance where we are asking you to give us a breakdown of males and females. Start now in gathering the data. Make certain that each and every unit is contacted to see what they have done this past year. Make certain if your council did a winter event – If it qualifies – count it.
NEW! Council Conservation Committee Guidebook Released

The Conservation Committee is proud to announce that the newest version of the Council Conservation Committee Guidebook – 2nd Edition is now done and it is available on the Conservation Committee’s web page or directly by clicking the following link: Council Conservation Committee Guidebook – 2nd Edition

This book is only available to download online as a PDF. Download your copy today!

Health & Safety Moment: Hazard Trees

According to the U.S. Forest Service, our nation’s forests are experiencing declining health conditions. Broken tops, widow-makers (broken or hanging limbs), and root rot in many tree species along with insect infestations, lightning, wind events, drought, and abundant moisture have led to the creation of abnormally high numbers of “hazard trees.” Hazard trees include dead trees, live trees with dead parts, and live trees that are unstable due to defects and are within striking distance of people or property.

These hazard trees don’t just affect our Scouting family during storms. They can fall—and have fallen—at unpredictable times, even when weather conditions are favorable.

To help ensure your property and programs are prepared, check out the newest safety moment, Hazard Trees and review the supplemental materials online at https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/hazard-trees/
**Daisy Offers Discount to Local Councils**

Daisy, the Official BB Gun of the Boy Scouts of America, is offering a 30% discount on any of their products sold online to anyone associated with Scouts. That includes all BSA employees, Scouts and their families. Check out [Daisy.com](http://Daisy.com) to purchase everything from BB guns and accessories to archery products to targets to safety equipment or your first Red Ryder.

- Go to [Daisy.com](http://Daisy.com) or [Gamusa.com](http://Gamusa.com) to place your order.
- When placing your online order, be sure to use the code **BSA302019** to receive the 30% discount.

**Offer expires September 1, 2019**

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**Coming to Philmont Scout Ranch in 2020!**

**PTC-Philmont Back Country Preview** - In 2020, look for a Scout/parent, or unit opportunities to enjoy a Philmont Training Center based program that will provide successively more difficult hikes into the back country, including the Urraca Loop, Lover’s Leap, and a top out on the Tooth of Time. A two-day, one night hike to a back-country location, trail lunch and dinner, and trail breakfast before a hike back to base camp will be a good test for those interested in a future, more challenging high adventure experiences.

**Scouts with Special Needs Resident Camp** - In collaboration with the National Scouting for Special Needs Committee, specialized resident camp programming will be developed for individual Scout/parent-caretakers, and unit camping at the PTC, with access to all Family Adventure and PTC related activities, including the crafts and activities, the petting zoo, trail hikes, Cimarron tours and other local adventures.
2021 National Jamboree Unveils Logo and Theme

The National Jamboree 2021 theme is “Face the Challenge”. So what does “Face the Challenge” mean? Here’s how Jamboree organizers explain it in a document summarizing the vision for the 2021 National Jamboree:

The truth is that young people can achieve more than they believe is possible. Scouting uniquely prepares its members to redefine their boundaries, push past them and emerge from the experience with the confidence that no matter the challenge, they can meet it.

Nothing is impossible for the prepared young person — no future is out of reach for a group of committed people who care.

It’s important to signal that the limits people perceive are self-imposed, and that with an embrace and application of the 12 points of the Scout Law and three points of the Scout Oath, there is a bright and positive future.

Participants in the 2021 National Scout Jamboree will learn that character is created when you achieve more than you thought possible.

For more information regarding the 2021 National Jamboree, visit https://jamboree.scouting.org/
Cold, Fast and High Water

Record rains, flooding and in some cases a 400% + increase in the snowpack are resulting in rivers across the country running **cold, fast and high**. A familiar river can turn into a menacing stranger, and the danger and difficulty go up even with a small rise in water level. A rapid that is normally well within your skill level might not be any more. Plus, the increased flow and flooded banks can make rescue much more challenging, maybe even impossible. The faster water is often colder too - not as much time for the sun to warm the river as it flows along - so hypothermia and cold shock risk can increase as well.

Safety equipment – wetsuits, helmets, life jackets, gloves, knee pads, etc. are essential for tackling any serious whitewater but might not be enough to protect you from harm if the river is beyond your skill level. Be realistic about your fitness and abilities, scout any serious rapids before running it, and if things are questionable, just wait - that river level will probably go down in a few days. The extra thrill isn't worth risking a life.

Reach out NOW to your guide services and / or river authorities to ensure conditions are favorable for the types of adventures you are providing? Plan alternatives for your crews.

Monitor conditions Daily. The conditions, especially in those areas downstream of snow melt and flooding are changing rapidly.

Are your participants fitness and skills proper to make the trip that might have been a Class II rapid at 70 degrees that is now running at Class IV and 40 degrees? Reminder, Class V is prohibited for any Scouting Activity.

Validate Swimming Ability. Engage your Council Health Supervisor in the discussion for any medical screening tips.

Finally, take a moment and share this incident review with your units during the planning stage: [https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/incident-reviews/river-paddling/](https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/incident-reviews/river-paddling/)

Additional resources:

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The Trail To Adventure, Summer 2019

A service of the National Outdoor Programs Committee