



# ROCKLAND ROUNDUP

Dec 2017

A Resource for Scouts and Non-Scouters

 [hudsonvalleyscouting.org](http://hudsonvalleyscouting.org)

 [bsa hvc rockland district](https://www.facebook.com/bsa-hvc-rockland-district)



Welcome to the December edition of Rockland Roundup, a monthly e-newsletter for scouts, parents, leaders and our community, designed to provide a venue to share information on what's going on in Scouting in Rockland County. We will be looking for unit submissions every month, with a monthly deadline of the 25th. Please let us know what's going on in your troop or community! Please send your submissions to:

[RocklandScouts@gmail.com](mailto:RocklandScouts@gmail.com)

## Don't Miss...

Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> — District Committee and Commissioners Meeting

Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> — OA Banquet

Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> — Roundtable

Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 — Ski Day at Belleayre Mountain

Saturday February 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 — Winter Klondike & Iditarod Webelos Trek

Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 — Scout Sunday

Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 — Scout Shabbat

Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 — Merit Badge College

Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 — Push Mobile Derby

## PLEASE SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!

We are looking for photos of your troop activities to use in our flyers, announcements and membership materials. If you have photos you would like to submit, please email them, along with permission to use the images and likenesses, to: [rocklandscouts@gmail.com](mailto:rocklandscouts@gmail.com).

## Training & Program Questions? Want to network with other leaders? Then come to Roundtable!



### What Is Roundtable?

One of the best sources for Cub Scout and Boy Scout adult leader education and information is your local district's Cub Scout and Boy Scout Roundtable. These monthly meetings provide a forum for adult leaders to learn and share information.

### For Boy Scout Leaders:

Roundtable provides a forum for adults involved as leaders in the Boy Scout program to:

- Discuss topics of interest, both formally and informally
- Learn about upcoming district and council events and programs
- Meet and exchanges ideas with other leaders from your district

Roundtable is open to all adults involved with the Boy Scout program. Registered troop leaders are especially encouraged to attend.

### For Cub Scout Den Leaders:

- Ideas for den meetings (songs, skits, crafts, games, etc.)
- Info on advancement programs specific to your rank
- Field trip ideas
- Details on district and council activities for your boys
- Ceremonies to make your den meetings special for your boys
- Suggestions on operating your den Fellowship with other den leaders
- Learn more about BSA Updates on policy/procedure changes
- A place to have your questions answered
- Have fun and make some great friends

### For Cub Scout Pack Leaders:

- Information on pack operations / suggestions for pack activities
- Details on community activities
- Ceremonies, songs, skits, cheers, games and fun for your pack meetings
- Details on district/council activities, events, and trainings
- A printed resource based on the upcoming theme
- Fellowship with other den leaders
- Learn more about the BSA
- Updates on policy/procedure changes
- A place to have your questions answered
- Have fun and make some great friends

**WHEN:** The second Monday of every month: Gathering 7:00pm, Opening 7:30pm (2018 Schedule: January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9, May 14)

**WHERE:** Summit Park School, 925 Route 45, Spring Valley

## A Scout's Guide to Earning and Wearing a Religious Emblem

Representing an array of faiths — from the African Methodist Episcopal Church to Zoroastrianism — religious emblems encourage Scouts, Venturers and adult volunteers to strengthen their faith-based journey within Scouting. This journey aligns with the 12th point of the Scout Law — reverent — and the “duty to God” part of the Scout Oath.

While the BSA is secular and members are not required to belong to any religious organization, BSA members are required to acknowledge a belief in God. Earning a religious emblem helps turn that “acknowledgement” into something deeper and more meaningful.

To learn more about religious emblems, including how to earn them, wear them and promote them within a Scout unit, I talked with Jason Noland. He's the CEO of Programs of Religious Activities with Youth, or PRAY. PRAY is one of several faith organizations with which the BSA partners to administer religious emblems programs.

“Religious emblems are important because they help connect young people deeply to their faith and implement Scouting as part of a congregation's youth ministry within the denominations where they belong,” Noland says.

### What are religious emblems?

They are medals created by the various religious groups represented in Scouting. Their purpose is to encourage youth and adults to grow stronger in their faith as part of their Scouting experience.

### Why are religious emblems important?

Studies by the BSA have shown that Scouts who earn a religious emblem stay registered longer in Scouting's programs. Considering that nearly three of every four units is chartered to a faith-based institution, this connection is vital to sustaining those relationships.

### How are these emblems different from regular advancement?

In one sense, they are not different at all. Just like earning a merit badge, a Scout has to take the initiative to start the process to earn a religious emblem. However, a young person doesn't ask his or her Cubmaster, Scoutmaster or Venturing advisor to help with that process. He or she contacts the religious institution. At most institutions, there's already a process in place for earning these emblems.

### What role do adult leaders play?

An important one. They can encourage young people to earn the emblems, connect them with the appropriate faith leader and present the awards in a meaningful way. Units with a Religious Emblems Coordinator have a designated adult who promotes emblems and tracks which ones have been earned.

### What resources are available?

Many of the faith organizations have their own websites, including the National Jewish Committee on Scouting, National Catholic Committee on Scouting and more. The official website of PRAY has a ton of great info, like a Duty to God poster you can print and share.



### What are the steps to earning a religious emblem?

- Obtain the specific booklet for your religion by checking with your local Scout Shop or contacting the religious organization directly.

- Ask parents to review the program guidelines.
- Become a member of your religious institution, if necessary. Note that some programs require participants to be official members of the religious institution and that age and grade requirements vary from program to program.
- Find a counselor. Each program sets its own guidelines as to who may serve as counselor. Some programs require clergy to serve as counselors; other programs allow parents or other family members to fill the role.
- Complete the requirements and obtain the proper signatures.
- Order the emblem itself. These emblems are not available from your local council Scout Shop. Follow the instructions in your booklet to order the emblem.
- Receive the emblem in a meaningful ceremony, preferably in the member's religious institution.

### How do you get the medal itself?

Unlike other advancement, these emblems are not purchased through the local council Scout Shop. You buy them through the faith organization that administers the emblem program. The instructions for ordering are highlighted at the end of the booklet. Emblems should be presented in a meaningful ceremony, like any other award in Scouting. Many units do this on Scout Sunday, Scout Sabbath or Scout Jumuah. Depending on the grade and emblem, it may take anywhere from 6 to 14 weeks for the emblem to arrive. So plan accordingly.

### What about adult emblems?

Unlike youth religious emblems, adult awards are based on service to Scouting and their faith. Most require a nomination form, letters of reference and clergy signature. Their approval also goes through the appropriate faith organization. Because most units are interfaith and multid denominational, it is not uncommon for adults to receive the emblem of other faiths in recognition of their service.

### How/where are emblems worn?

All faiths have emblems or medals that should be worn as part of the official uniform and are appropriate for those events. A silver knot on purple cloth may be worn by youth members who have received their religious emblem. For adults, the knot is the reverse: purple on silver cloth. If you earned both, you may wear both at the same time.

## Religious Awards

On November 5, Rockland District Commissioner Wayne Kunow and Assistant Scoutmaster Mark Olson received the Lutheran Servant of Youth award, which was presented to them by Pastor Lena Warren of Good Shephard Lutheran Church in Pearl River, NY. Pictured following the award (L to R) is Wayne Kunow, Assistant Council Commissioner Don Schreck who nominated them for the award, and Mark Olson.

The Servant of Youth Adult Recognition is awarded by the National Lutheran Association on Scouting. It is given to acknowledge distinguished volunteer service by adults in ministry to young people through one or more civic youth agencies, which in this case, is the Boy Scouts of America. Both Wayne and Mark are very involved as leaders in Suffern Troop 21.

This award required a minimum of five years of service to their church as well as to Scouting.



## STEM Scout Named America's Top Young Scientist

Last week, STEM Scout Gitanjali "Anjali" Rao was named the winner of the 2017 Discovery Education and 3M Young Scientist Challenge, making the world a better place in the process. Anjali's award-winning project, the Tethys, enables users to test for lead levels in water with greater ease and effectiveness than many existing testing processes. This tool, named after the Greek goddess of fresh water, has potentially life-saving implications for communities around the globe. However, this isn't Anjali's first Good Turn in the world of STEM. We met this 11-year-old innovator back in February, after her life-saving device for snake bites earned her the title of Middle Tennessee Council's STEM Scout of the Year. Flash forward to October, and she's already invented yet another way to save lives before the year has even ended (classic Anjali).

## THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

Let's do some baking.... And it's the holidays so here are two recipes....

### Applesauce Gingerbread Cake

- 1 14 oz. can of applesauce
- 1 package of gingerbread cake mix

Pour applesauce in bottom of dutch oven or cast iron skillet. Pour dry cake mix over applesauce. Cover and cook until moisture from applesauce has steamed the cake. Let cool approx. 20-30 mins. Serve warm.

### No Bake Cookies

- 2 cups of sugar
- 3 Tbsp. cocoa
- 1 stick butter
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 3 cups oatmeal
- 1/2 cup peanut butter

Mix sugar and cocoa in a pan. Add butter and milk. Bring to a boil. Boil 2 minutes while stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Add vanilla and peanut butter. Stir. Put mixture in a bowl containing the oatmeal. Mix the oats into the mixture until they are coated. Drop by spoonfuls onto aluminum foil. Let cool.

For a variation use crunchy peanut butter.



## Why Every Scout Unit Needs a New Member Coordinator



Joining a new Scout unit can be a little overwhelming at first. You're presented with a calendar full of fun upcoming activities, but all the new people, places and things can seem like a lot to digest.

Fortunately for anyone joining Scouting in 2017 or beyond, there's help. It

comes in the form of a volunteer whose job is to make new members feel right at home. It's called the New Member Coordinator.

If your unit recharter soon, you should find one or more volunteers to serve in this vital role. Wearing a blue "Welcome" pin on their hat or shirt, the New Member Coordinator is easily identifiable at unit gatherings. He or she welcomes new members with a smile and points them in the right direction — literally and figuratively.

### What a New Member Coordinator does

The New Member Coordinator forms a connection with new members and their families. He or she is appointed by and reports to the Unit Committee Chair. Each unit should have one — or, ideally, more than one — New Member Coordinator.

In general, all New Member Coordinators:

- Serve as welcoming ambassadors for the unit.
- Work with the unit committee in developing and implementing the Unit Membership Plan.
- Participate in New Member Coordinator training and collaborate with the district membership team.

"New Member Coordinators can be a game-changer for membership retention as well as recruitment," says Linda Baker, chairwoman of the New Member Coordinator Task Force. "Having one or more NMCs in a unit can make everything easier and more fun."

### How to register as a New Member Coordinator

The easiest time to register someone as a New Member Coordinator is when your pack, troop or crew recharter. The New Member Coordinator, which uses the registration code "NM," is a member of the unit committee. This role replaces the roles of Unit Membership Chair and Parent Coordinator, which are no longer available. Anyone registered in one of those now-retired positions should have received an email from the national membership vice president encouraging him or her to register as a New Member Coordinator in 2018 and beyond.

### How to get started as a New Member Coordinator

Make [scouting.org/NMC](http://scouting.org/NMC) your first stop. You'll find training information, forms, printable brochures, videos, logos and much more.

## Don't Leave Your Bear Bag At Home This Winter

You're packing for a winter camping trip. Tent, check. Warm clothes, check. Food, check. Bear bag... Do you really need a bear bag? It's winter, after all. Aren't the bears hibernating?

Well, first of all, bears don't hibernate like other mammals. Their body temperature drops by about 12 degrees during their wintertime slumbers, as opposed to smaller animals like squirrels and chipmunks whose body temperature can plummet by 50 degrees or more. This allows bears to quickly come out of hibernation if disturbed.

Hibernation also depends on location. Grizzlies in Alaska can stay cooped up in their dens for half the year while black bears in southern states may hibernate for a few weeks. Plus, some bears might get up throughout the winter months. So if you're going camping in bear country during any time of year, you're going to want to bring a bear bag. Even if you aren't in bear country, you might want one to keep other critters out of your stash. If you don't know if your campgrounds might be inhabited by bears or not, call the park ranger or check out range maps.

### Hanging a bear bag

A black bear can smell seven times better than a bloodhound. That means if you have anything fragrant — from lip balm to water bottles that had bug juice in them — you're going to want to throw it all in a stuff sack for the night. Fill the sack with all of your "smellables," and take it at least 200 feet downwind from your campsite (300 feet to be on the safe side). While it's still daylight, find a tree with a sturdy branch that's about 20 feet above the ground. Throw one end of your rope or nylon cord over the branch; tie the other end to your stuff sack. You can use a clove hitch knot to attach the rope to the bag. Hoist the sack up so it's at least 12 feet off the ground and six feet from the trunk of the tree. This should keep the bag out of reach of any curious bears. Tie the other end of the rope to the tree.

A variation of attaching the bag to the rope is the "Pacific Trail Crest" method, where you hook a carabiner to your stuff sack and hoist it up all the way to the branch. Use a clove hitch to tie a small stick to the rope, creating a toggle. Let the sack down until the toggle and carabiner meet.

If you can't find a tree with the perfect overhanging branch, you can string your bear bag between two trees. First, tie your rope to a tree and throw one end over a branch. Secure your stuff sack in the middle of the slack end of the rope. Toss that end over the branch of another tree. Pull on that end until the sack is hoisted to the desired height and tie that end off to a tree.

Keep in mind, in some areas and parks, bear canisters, instead of bags, are required to use by law. These containers can be bulky and expensive, but they are tough for bears to open.



## POLAR BEAR PLUNGE

To benefit the Friends of Scouting campaign, three brave souls took a brief but refreshing plunge into Lake Boyce on Saturday, December 9th. Led by our mighty District Executive, Christian Miller, they dodged snowflakes while cautiously wading into the water, dunked themselves, and hurried back to snowy sand. Popcorn Kernel Mike Caivano and Bob Steerman completed the trio. A small crowd cheered them on and supplied moral support, along with towels, blankets and warm congratulatory handshakes.





# Breakfast with Santa article and photos by Jack Meyers

Right on schedule, it turned out to be a white Breakfast with Santa. For those who braved the forecast, pancakes, sausage, coffee and hot chocolate was their reward. On Saturday, December 9th, Scouts, parents and leaders were invited to breakfast with Santa at the Mess Hall at Camp Bullowa. The event promoted Summer Camp at Bullowa. A slide show of past summers' activities played in the hall so all could watch during their meal. Holiday music, a Christmas tree and a warm fire completed the festive atmosphere. Of course, Santa was the main attraction as he asked the kids what they wanted for Christmas. Naturally, all the Cub Scouts were on the "nice" list. Not to be forgotten, Santa had two little elves helping. Elf Christian Miller helped coordinate the event. Elf Wayne Kunow cooked and kept the hotcakes and sausage well stocked.





## UNIT NEWS CUB SCOUTS

### PACK 4

On Saturday, November 18, 2017 - the newly formed Cub Scout Pack 4 of Spring Valley donated turkeys and canned food items for thirteen deserving families at the Salvation Army in Spring Valley. Pack 4 is sponsored by the Rock-

land Omega Community Development Foundation (ROCDEF), Inc. the philanthropic arm of the Xi Lambda Lambda Chapter (Rockland County) of Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity, Inc.

## BOY SCOUTS

### TROOP 2

Troop 2 participated in the recent interfaith gathering for service, fellowship and worship. The youth service project was a food drive for relief efforts in Puerto Rico. The young people learned about each others faiths and also made cornbread to be shared at a free meal for those in

need on Thanksgiving day morning. The worship service was a combined gathering of different faith families in our area. Worshipers from two synagogues, a mosque, and several Christian churches came together to give thanks for the blessings weve received. A scout is reverant.

### TROOP 97

Troop 97 had a great November! In addition to our fun weekly meetings, and with several of our scouts attending the University of Scouting for youth leader classes and merit badges, our scouts braved the cold temps tent camping, cooking and working as a team on an Advancement Weekend at Camp Nooteming. Many of

our life scouts continued working on the Eagle projects and the troop held a combined 13 project workdays this month alone! We look forward to December and our Webelos Weekend recruitment event at Camp Bullowa 12/2-3 and bringing our holiday scout spirit to the Nyack Men's Home for our annual visit!

## OUR EAGLES SOAR!

Congratulations to the following scouts who achieved the rank of Eagle in November and December!

Eagle Date	Eagle Scout	Troop	Eagle Project
December 2017	C. Chesterman	2055	Fr. McKeon's of St. Francis Visitor Parking Project
	A. Hansraj	2042	The Centenary Cemetery Historical Restoration
	T. Kuiper	2055	Kennels for Hi-Tor Animal Care Center
	A. Meehan	2036	Pearl River MS Cross Country Trail Map and Sign Posts
	G. Osborne	2002	"Operation Closet Vamp" Closet Renovation for Macedonia Baptist Church
November 2017	D. Bruen	2055	Outdoor Educational Classroom at W. Nyack Library
	J. Parrott	2097	Germonds Cemetery Repair
	M. Parrott	2097	Traphagen Bridge and Trail
	C. Stone	2078	Hope Clothesline & Serenity Seating Area



# JANUARY 28, 2018 SCOUT AND FAMILY SKI DAY

Open to all Scouts, Families and Friends!



## Hudson Valley Council, BSA 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Ski Day Belleayre Ski Resort • Highmount, NY

BSA Policy requires helmets for all participants. If renting equipment, please plan on arriving by 8:15 a.m. An adult must sign for any minor(s) who will be using rental equipment.

- Breakfast and lunch are not included so please plan to purchase meals at the resort.
- Snow Sport merit badge will be offered to Boy Scouts:
  - Experienced skiers or snowboarders only.
  - A signed Blue Card is required.
  - Pre-registration is required.

**Check-In and Registration Begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 9:15 a.m.**

<b>Lift Ticket</b>	<b>Register by 4:00 p.m. January 19 , 2018</b>	<b>After January 19 , 2018</b>
7 - 12	\$35.00	\$38.00
13 – 19	\$35.00	\$38.00
20 and over	\$40.00	\$45.00
<b>Equipment Rental (Includes Required Helmet and Rental</b>		
7 - 12	\$30.00	\$35.00
13 – 19	\$38.00	\$40.00
20 and over	\$38.00	\$40.00
Lessons	\$15.00	\$15.00
First Time Beginner Group Package (Includes lower mountain lift ticket, equipment rental and helmet and a 1 and ½ hour beginner lesson)	\$65.00	\$70.00

**Register online at [hudsonvalleyscouting.org](http://hudsonvalleyscouting.org)**

For More Information, Please Contact Joe Spring at (845) 786-2852 or Christian Miller at [christian.miller@scouting.org](mailto:christian.miller@scouting.org) or HVC 845-566-7300





# First Annual Merit Badge College

Saturday, March 24, 2018  
Minisink Valley HS, Middletown, NY



- American Cultures
- American Heritage
- Chess
- Citizenship in the Community\*
- Citizenship in the Nation\*
- Citizenship in the World\*
- Collections
- Communication\*
- Crime Prevention
- Dentistry
- Digital Technology
- Disability Awareness
- Electricity
- Entrepreneurship
- Exploration

- Fingerprinting
- Fire Safety
- First Aid\*
- Game Design
- Indian Lore
- Law
- Lifesaving\*
- Movie making
- Photography
- Public Speaking
- Robotics
- Scouting Heritage
- Signs, Signals & Codes
- Swimming
- Textiles



Detailed Registration Information Coming Soon!

*\*Eagle Required Merit Badge*

