



THE CACOOSING OWL

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CACOOSING DISTRICT - HAWK MOUNTAIN COUNCIL, BSA

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

District Chair Welcome	1
Roundtable Information	2
District Activities	3
Advancement News	4
Updated District Webpage Scoutwire	5
District Training Awards and Keys	6
What is a District & What is a Council	7
Cub Scout Program Updates	8

From the District Chairman

Dear Fellow Scouters:

This is our first district newsletter in some time. Its purpose is to bring you information about district programs, to provide information about Scouting in general, and to highlight the activities of units in our district.

If you wish to contribute to our next issue, please email me by February 15, 2023. I can be reached either by email at michael.a.armato@gmail.com or at cacoosing@hmc-bsa.org

In the meantime, I welcome your thoughts and feedback on how this can become a useful tool for Cacoosing.

Yours in Scouting,

Michael Armato

District Chairman

FEBRUARY ROUNDTABLE

~ CHANGE OF WEEK ~

February 7, 2024

7:00 p.m.

**Bern Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

Program Topic:

**A Fireside Chat with
Scout Executive Davis Fox**

**The District Committee and the
Commissioner Staff will both meet
in person at 6:00 p.m.
on February 7 at
Bern Evangelical Lutheran Church.**



District Activities

January 13, 2024

Scouts BSA Klondike Derby

Hawk Mountain Scout Reservation

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, please click on [this link](#).

January 27, 2024

Cub Scout Klondike Derby

Peterson Farm in Mohnton!

The farm is next to the

Brecknock Township Building

at 889 Alleghenyville Rd., Mohnton, PA 19540.

8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, please click on [this link](#).

April 6, 2024

District Pinewood Derby

La Salle Academy

Registration Begins at 10:00 a.m.



Advancement News

Life To Eagle

At every Roundtable a member of the Advancement Committee is present to host Life To Eagle conversations for Life Scouts. This helps Scouts understand the Eagle Scout application and Eagle Scout Project Workbook. If Scouts are not able to attend Roundtable, District Advancement Chair Ron Beard is willing to meet with Life Scouts at a Troop Meeting.

Recording Advancements

It is recommended that both Packs and Troops record advancements as soon as they are earned rather than waiting for Courts of Honor.

Complete Eagle Applications

Please be sure to submit completed Eagle Scout applications to the council office. Should the application be incomplete, it will be returned to the Scout.



Updated District Webpage and New Email Address

Cacoosing District now has an updated webpage!

It includes information about the district, such as information about district events and links to our Facebook Page. It also talks about the area that our district covers.

And, it introduces our new email address to contact district leadership:
cacoosing@hmc-bsa.org.

You can visit the new district webpage by clicking on [this link](#).



HMC Scoutwire

Scoutwire is the electronic newsletter of Hawk Mountain Council. To receive this newsletter, please register using [this link](#).



District Committee Training Awards and District Committee and Commissioner Key Awards

As the saying goes, every scout deserves a trained leader. And, it is important that we recognize those leaders for their service to their youth.

To these ends, there are district committee training awards and district committee and commissioner key training awards available.

Each of these awards has three component parts. The first is tenure in a given position. The second is training that has been completed. The third is performance.

If you are interested in learning more about these awards, please visit the below links.

[District Committee Training Award](#)

[District Committee Key](#)

[Commissioner Key](#)

You can also email the district at cacoosing@hmc-bsa.org if you require more information or would like to pursue one of these awards.



For The New Scouter: What is a Council and a District?

Scouting, like any organization, has our own vernacular. And, many of us have been speaking that vernacular since we were youth. We often forget that every person might not know what we are talking about. So, it is a good idea for us to talk about the difference between a council and a district.

A council is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization that receives a charter from the Boy Scouts of America to conduct scouting activities in a given geographic location. Within their geographic borders, and within the confines of the terms of their charter, it makes policy decisions on the local level. For example, whether a council runs a camp would be a local policy decision. It is run by a council executive board, that serves as the nonprofit board of the council. The council executive board elects a council president, the top volunteer in the council, and the council commissioner, the chief quality control officer of the council. And, the council executive board hires and supervises a scout executive, who acts as the executive director of the council.

Another policy that councils decide is the creation of districts. Districts are carved out of the geographic area of the council. Their goal is to provide programmatic and quality control services to the units. They do not decide policy. But, they do run events, provide resources, and help units deliver Scouting. Some councils only have one district. Others have more than 10 districts. And, every council is unique in how they divide work between the council and their districts. Each district chairman is also a voting member of the council executive board. And, as such, acts as an advocate for scouts, scouters, and units in their district at council-level policymaking bodies.



UPDATED CUB SCOUT PROGRAM STARTING JUNE 1, 2024

The National Cub Scout Committee has been assessing the Cub Scout program and found room for improvement. Below is a summary of their findings.



BOBCAT

- One set of requirements is ineffective
- What to do with returning Cub Scouts
- Rank or not a rank?



ADVENTURES

- Disjointed required adventure topics
- Inconsistent number of adventures for each rank
- Volunteers want more elective adventures



WEBELOS (4TH/5TH GRADE)

- Length of Webeles program
- Does not follow the pattern of other ranks
- Purpose of the program



AWARDS

- Awards are not in the direct line of sight of Den Leaders
- Average attachment rate of 1.5%
- Awards do not drive behavior

To these ends, the National Cub Scout Committee is, throughout this year, rolling out an explanation of and details about updates to each part of the program. This is the high-level chart they shared. For more information, in particular to learn about the phases of the roll out, please see a discussion on Cub Chat Live at [this link](#).

2024-2025








Cub Scout Badges of Rank

Requirements

The Bobcat Adventure is designed to be the first required Adventure.

Each badge of rank is earned by completing six required and two elective Adventures.

The six required Adventures are focused on the aims and focus areas of the BSA.

 LION Kindergarten	 TIGER 1 st Grade	 WOLF 2 ND Grade	 BEAR 3 RD Grade	 WEBELOS 4 TH Grade	 ARROW OF LIGHT 5 TH Grade
 BOBCAT Character/Leadership	 BOBCAT Character/Leadership	 BOBCAT Character/Leadership	 BOBCAT Character/Leadership	 BOBCAT Character/Leadership	 BOBCAT Character/Leadership
 MOUNTAIN LION Outdoors	 TIGERS IN THE WILD Outdoors	 PAWS ON THE PATH Outdoors	 BEAR HABITAT Outdoors	 WEBELOS WALKABOUT Outdoors	 OUTDOOR ADVENTURER Outdoors
 FUN ON THE RUN Personal Fitness	 TIGER BITES Personal Fitness	 RUNNING WITH THE PACK Personal Fitness	 BEAR STRONG Personal Fitness	 STRONGER, FASTER, HIGHER Personal Fitness	 PERSONAL FITNESS Personal Fitness
 KING OF THE JUNGLE Citizenship	 TEAM TIGER Citizenship	 COUNCIL FIRE Citizenship	 PAWS FOR ACTION Citizenship	 MY COMMUNITY Citizenship	 CITIZENSHIP Citizenship
 LION ROAR Personal Safety	 TIGER ROAR Personal Safety	 SAFETY IN NUMBERS Personal Safety	 STANDING TALL Personal Safety	 MY SAFETY Safety/First Aid	 FIRST AID Safety/First Aid
 LION'S PRIDE Family/Reverence	 TIGER CIRCLES Family/Reverence	 FOOTSTEPS Family/Reverence	 FELLOWSHIP Family/Reverence	 MY FAMILY Family/Reverence	 DUTY TO GOD Family/Reverence
 2 Elective Adventures	 2 Elective Adventures	 2 Elective Adventures	 2 Elective Adventures	 2 Elective Adventures	 2 Elective Adventures