

Special points of interest:

#GivingTuesday

- Camp Happenings/
Scouting Activities
- Eagle Scouts
- 2023 National Jamboree
- Community Service



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A Message From Paul Knox, Scout Executive

It is evident that Scouting has continued to grow in enthusiasm in 2022 as we welcomed a significant increase of youth at Camp Lavigne this summer. In addition to the nearly three hundred youth scouts that attended camp, we also hosted a 4H group during the third week of June and most recent, Camp Courage. Thanks to our passionate volunteers, many improvements were made to the camp including the Pool being completely repaired, a facelift to the interior of Wise Lodge and repairs to the Cooks Cabin. The program at Camp Lavigne expanded back to its original fervor, as the COPE program and Climbing Tower were added back after a dedicated effort of over twenty volunteers raised the needed funds to make it possible.

We are proud to have honored our 2021 Eagle Scouts representing 10 percent of all registered Scouts BSA in the Council and as the year comes to a close, we will add fourteen new Eagles in 2022 and still counting. It was a pleasure host the first ever Eaglepalooza this summer at Camp Lavigne. Families of Riverside Troop 33 recognized the accomplishments of the seven Eagle Scouts their unit has had in the past twelve months, with nearly 150 in attendance. Dr Richard Baker and Victor Marks, MD joined the ranks of our Outstanding Eagles for which are Council has recognized. Finally, we had the privilege of presenting the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award to Dr. James Blankenship, which is the highest honor an Eagle Scout can receive.

This fall we successfully added one hundred new youth to into the Scouting program with our Hometown Pride Scouting theme. A new girl unit, Troop 511 Benton formed in August with five new Scouts joining! The Columbia Montour Council continues to demonstrate its commitment to developing our youth into the leaders of tomorrow and currently stands fourth in the Nation in the percentage of scouts that we serve.

It is because of the persistent dedication of our volunteers and generosity of our donors that the Columbia Montour Council can consistently serve the youth of our local area with a program that sets the example for the Scouting community across the Country.

Thank you for your devoted support of the Columbia-Montour Council and may you have the Happiest and Healthiest of Holidays!

Yours in Scouting,

Paul B. Knox

Dear Friends of Scouting...

This newsletter contains information about the happenings within the Columbia – Montour Council, Boy Scouts of America. We want to make sure that our generous donors know how their contributions help this council in providing the high quality program we offer to our youth. We will look at where we were, what we are doing, and things we are looking forward to in the future.

Your support means so much to us and makes it possible for us to continue to provide the youth of this region with a quality program that builds leadership and character. You are an important part of who we are, what we do, and why we are here.

Thanks for your continued support!



#GIVINGTUESDAY
NOVEMBER 29, 2022 #WeAreTheBSA



#GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration.

Help bring Scouting to more young people...

Support given to our local Council provides more scholarship programs to youth who without your support, would not have the opportunity to benefit from the Scouting experience. It also provides the needed program supplies for youth activities, volunteer training, maintenance to the Council Service Center and our beloved Camp Lavigne. With your donation we can keep scouting alive, making it more accessible to all local youth while teaching them to live the values of the Scout Oath and Law and to helping others at all times.

Our aim is to raise \$15,000 through the #GivingTuesday drive which will also go toward fulfilling our annual Friends of Scouting campaign goal. Through your kindness today, together we can reach the finish line!

Please consider making a contribution to the Columbia-Montour Council, BSA this #GivingTuesday!

<http://www.columbiamontourbsa.org/Donate>

Because of **YOUR** generosity, **ALL** of this is possible...

Summer Camp 2022

Camp Lavigne has a long history of offering outdoor summer adventures full of excitement and this summer did not disappoint! Scouts learned new skills, earned merit badges, and forged friendships that will last a lifetime.

Summer Camp Weird Science had over 230 scouts in attendance including two out-of-council groups. New offerings for camp this year were welding, emergency preparedness, digital technology, and the radio merit badge. This year in addition to our camp-wide science experiment, patrols were given the opportunity to participate in a chopped competition. The winners were given a new Dutch oven a cookbook and a lid remover. This year thanks to Wyona Lodge and the use of their inflatable screen we were able to have a night swim/movie night.

For the first time since 2019 Cubs were back for resident camp. Resident campers were given the opportunity to bravely do a night hike through Camp Lavigne. Each scout and leader was given a glow bracelet for light. The hike finished with a glowing radioactive egg hunt. Day and resident campers had the opportunity to practice weird science by making gummy bears and many other cool adventures.



“GATEWAY TO ADVENTURE”

Conclave - Order of the Arrow

Conclave is an annual Order of the Arrow event that brings lodges from each section together for fellowship, training, and fun while they celebrate the long traditions of the Order of the Arrow. This year's Conclave was hosted by the Columbia Montour Council at Camp Lavigne. The theme... Roaring 20's!

It was a great time with lots of new friends made and memories to last a lifetime!



NOAC - Order of the Arrow

The National Order of the Arrow Conference, or NOAC, was a tremendous success. Held every two years, this year's conference was held at the University of Tennessee, in Knoxville, July 25-30 and hosted 6,500 fellow Arrowmen. Some activities included in the week were: climbing, shooting, throwing tomahawks, 5k races and triathlons and inspirational shows.



Haunted Harvest Fest at Camp Lavigne

A amazing time was had at our annual Haunted Cub Scout camporee. We hosted 266 Scouts, leaders, parents, and siblings along with an additional 30 adult leaders and Scouts BSA troop youth members to help run the event.

The event offered family camping and Friday night the Scouts got to enjoy a campfire with ghost stories. Saturday morning after breakfast, they got to enjoy activities that included: an obstacle course, hay rides, haunted house with different scare levels, fishing, scarecrow contest, and so much more. New and old scouts had opportunities to practice their shooting skills with BB shooting, archery, and sling shot. We rounded the night out in true Camp Lavigne style with Scout skits and songs. It was a beautiful weekend and the weather could not have been better.



Scouts BSA Fall Camporee

This year's orienteering camporee was a great success! Camp welcomed 120 Scouts and another 40 adult leaders. Friday night was cracker barrel and Saturday kicked off the event. Scouts had the opportunity to visit each station learning basic orienteering skills at their pace. Once they completed the stations, they



were given two basic courses to tackle. These were in preparation for our Sunday Competition. Sunday Scouts ran a 5k course and the winner will represent the Council at the Mid-Atlantic Scout Orienteering Championship in March 2023.

Merit Badge College

The 2022 Merit Badge College was a great success! A total of 28 merit badges were offered this year with a total of 119 scouts registered. Together they earned an impressive 368 merit badges.

Next year's Merit Badge College will be held Saturday, February 4, 2023 at Central Columbia Middle School



Klondike Derby

This year's Klondike derby was COLD but the kids still had fun. We welcomed 86 Scouts and another 34 adult leaders to camp. Some units came for the day and others added a few cold weather nights and camped.

The event is organized and staffed by the Wyona Lodge Order of the Arrow members offering activities in sled racing, fire starting, first aid, knot tying, and more.



Cub Winter Fun Day

This year's event had it all; Scouts, snow and fun! Camp opened its doors to 14 Cub Scout packs who brought a total of 205 scouts, leaders, and parents for the event.

The Scouts were able to participate in the annual scavenger hunt, visit stations that encouraged team building skills as well as crafts and games, and more.

A great time was had by all!



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Serving our community is just one of the ways our Scouts fulfill their promise to “help other people at all times”. Scouts and Units throughout the Columbia-Montour Council band together to answer the calls.

Some of their projects have included:

- Scouting for Food
- Blood drive
- Roadside cleanups
- Scout Sunday
- Food bank distribution
- Christmas caroling at nursing homes
- Conservation projects
- Flag retirement ceremonies
- Veterans Memorial Day flag placement
- And so much more!



Millville Pack 247 - Leaf Cleanup
Millville Christian Church



Troop 33 - Built a community produce stand for the residents of the Riverside Borough.



“Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world.”

2022 Distinguished Eagle Scout Recipient - Dr. James Blankenship

Established in 1969, the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award recognizes Eagle Scouts who achieve extraordinary national level recognition or eminence within their profession while having a strong record of voluntary service to their communities. This is the highest honor an Eagle Scout can achieve with a required minimum “time in service” of 25 years from the date in which the Eagle rank was attained.

Dr. Blankenship, a Interventional Cardiologist and 1970 Eagle Scout, has given his distinguished service to his community and nation as a surgeon of Interventional Cardiology, professor of Medicine, author of countless articles, Scientific Lecturer, served on 19 international medical mission teams, and a past member of the Council Executive Board.



Richard Baker

2022 National Outstanding Eagle Scout Award Recipients

The NESA Outstanding Eagle Scout Award recognizes Eagle Scouts who have brought great honor to the highest rank of the Boy Scouts of America through their personal and professional contributions at the local, state, and regional level.



Dr. Victor Marks

Congratulations to all!

**“Once and
Eagle, Always
and Eagle”**



2022 Eagle Scouts

Robert Trelease—T33—Created a seating area that the staff and students could utilize in the courtyard at Danville Middle School.

Jay Moyer—T33—Built 4 wheelchair accessible picnic tables for Montour Area Recreation Commission. Two tables are located at Montour Preserve Visitor’s Center and two are located at Washingtonville Community Park.

Michael Broyan—T44—Renovated the concession area and storage area at the Berwick Theater and Center for Community Arts.

Levi Culver—T43—Repaired the outside pavilion at Trinity United Methodist Church in Danville.

Ryan Piekanski—T39—Built a 30’ x 50’ Volleyball court in the back property of Trinity United Methodist Church.

Gabriel Hook—T6—Built a Gaga Ball pit for the Teen Center in Berwick

Gavin Davis—T22—Created safe exchange zone for e-commerce and child custody exchanges at Salem Township Police Department.

Chris Halchak—T17

Benjamin Shaffer - T20 - Built a garden at the Bloomsburg YMCA consisting of four six-foot by 8-foot garden boxes and a fence around the perimeter.

Colin Tasco - T17 - Put up plaques, cemetery signs, and directional signs at the Susquehanna Warrior Trail as well as completed some minor trail maintenance.

Jordon Chambers -T43 - Built a gaga pit and two informational kiosks at Trinity United Methodist Church in Danville for use with their church youth groups, as well as the community. The kiosks allow church members to keep the community more informed of their information.

Michael Redline - T22 - Built a second dugout for the Nescopeck Ballpark.

Derek Dietz - T17 - Replaced the 25 half mile markers along the Susquehanna Warrior Trail from the Susquehanna Riverlands to Canal Park with environmentally friendly recycled lumber markers. Many of the wooden markers were damaged or missing.

2023 National Jamboree

The National Jamboree will be held July 19-28, 2023 at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in Southern West Virginia. With ten days of activities, there is definitely something for everyone!

The Council is committed to sending a full contingent of 40 youth and adults. We currently have 36 signed up with 4 slots still open for additional attendees.



Fall Membership Recruitment

We are 98.8% to the goal we set of 578 new recruits this year. We only need 7 more kids to reach our goal by the end of the year. We have done many recruitment events to help bring in kids, but easily the most important recruitment events have been when individual units reached out to the schools and put out flyers for recruitment events and sign-up nights at their units. This is an option that is always open to us any time of the year. I recently reached out the school districts in Bloomsburg and Berwick and they were more than happy to have us put flyers in the kids' folders at School. They even have options now to put flyers on the school webpage so all we would need to do is send a copy of the flyer to the school district and they will post it for us after approval.

Many units have had great success in recruiting new scouts. If your unit has not met its goal of recruitment, don't give up, you still have two months to go. Invite kids to some fun events like scouting for food, Thanksgiving celebrations and Christmas parties. Let them see how fun Scouting can be.



Venturing - Silver and Summit Awards

At our annual awards banquet, we were proud to honor all of our previous Silver and Summit award recipients.

The purpose of the Silver award is to provide a pathway for youth to develop personally, learn, grow, and serve. The Summit award is the highest rank a youth in Venturing can earn. They must first earn the Venturing Rank, then on the Discovery and Pathfinder before finally achieving the rank of Summit.

Pictured are recipients of the Silver and Summit Awards:

- Robin Massina - Crew 7 - Summit Award - 2005
- Robyn Cragle - Crew 7 - Silver Award - 2009
- Tanya Daily - Crew 7 - Silver Award - 2010
- Briana Nichols - Crew 43 - Silver Award - 2014
- Lexus Mordan - Crew 43 - Silver Award - 2014
- Justin Cornell - Crew 7 - Silver Award - 2014
- Briana Nichols - Crew 43 - Summit Award - 2016
- Lauren Comly - Crew 43 - Summit Award - 2020
- Don Hopper, Jr. - Crew 43 - Summit Award - 2021
- Heather Nichols - Crew 43 - Summit Award - 2021



Camp Improvements

Through the dedication of our volunteers and contributions made by our donors, we were able to make significant upgrades to our camp in 2022. Through the work of the Ladies of Lavigne and so many others who helped them along the way, the Wise Lodge received several upgrades which included refinishing of the bathroom floors, upgraded the kitchen counter top and cabinets, deep cleaned the flooring, and installed more bunks and seats for camp programming. The Dudes of Danville, members of Troop 39, did a fantastic job with the upgrades to the cooks cabin and Riverside Troop 33 repainted Dining Hall kitchen floor. The pool was our biggest improvement for the year to date. We were able to repair the leak that has been giving is trouble for some time and through a very generous \$10,000 donation, we were able to repaint and seal the pool to ensure many more years of enjoyment. After being down for two years, our COPE program is up and running again. The newly established COPE Committee did a great job raising the needed funds to get the program back open for 2022 summer camp. Thanks to all who make this possible!

