

THE POMPERAUG POST

May 2019



The official newsletter of Pomperaug District, Connecticut Yankee Council, Boy Scouts of America

Serving the Scouting Communities of Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford, Trumbull, Weston and Westport

On June 14th join us for the...

2019 District Kickoff

...at the Trumbull LDS Church at 30 Bonnie View Drive.

As in years past, we will be have a picnic dinner with free food.
Bring a salad or dessert to share.

The District Kickoff Awards will be given out.
There will be a Midway with several program areas such as membership recruitment, popcorn, training, etc.

We'll also be launching an updated version of our District Program Planning Guide.

Come to enjoy fellowship and share ideas!

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From the Key 3

Now is the time to start thinking about how your unit is going to put the outing in scouting this summer. Summer is right around the corner and there are many great ways to get your scouts outside learning and enjoying nature. Whether you are in a Cub Scout Pack, Scouts BSA Troop, Venture Crew, or Sea Scout Ship there are great opportunities to get your scouts outdoors.

For Cub Scout Packs, the council offers two great summer camping options. The first is day camp which is a 5-day camp that take place at 6 locations throughout the council. Scouts will have the opportunity to take part in great activities such as scoutcraft, archery, BB Guns, and much more. Camps run from early morning to late afternoon. Your kids will come home tired making your Mom and Dad's life easier. The other program is the Cub Family weekend, which overs a similar program to Day Camp, but is more family oriented and offers an overnight component. More information about these programs can be found here: <https://www.ctyankee.org/camp/charge-up-your-summer-with-cub-scout-camps/> For Scouts BSA units, Resident Camp is the backbone of the scouting program. Resident camp is a week-long overnight camping experience where scouts have the opportunity to earn merit badges, work on advancement requirements, socialize with members of units from throughout the council, and learn independence. Scouts that attend summer camp generally end up sticking with scouting for years. More information about summer residence camp can be found here: <https://www.ctyankee.org/scout-info/boy-scout-resident-camp/>

Venture Crews and Sea Scouts are generally more high adventure focused and the opportunities for these units are much more diverse. Units can plan their ideal adventure. The BSA has several high adventure bases throughout the country that offer outstanding programs, but space is limited so plans need to be made well ahead of time. Information about these bases can be found here: <https://www.scouting.org/outdooradventures/>. If you are looking for something more personal, your scouts can plan their own adventure at the place of their choice as well.

The outdoor program is the best part of the scouting program. Give your youth the opportunity to experience the best part of scouting.

District Kickoff Award Nominations

It may seem like we just finished up nominations for our annual district dinner, but it's not too early to start thinking about nominations for awards at our Annual District Kickoff to be held on June 11th (more details to come). We have several awards that are presented at this event for which we'd like you to consider nominating someone.

The First Class Scouter award is presented to a Scouter for outstanding service to Scouting in a Unit or to the District, up to 3 awards may be given per year.

The Russ Cumming Award is presented to a Scouter to recognize long-standing service to the District. Russ Cumming served the Nutmeg District and its predecessor as the District Commissioner for over 30 years, as well as Scouting for over 50 years.

The Stew Stern Award is presented to the Scouter who most represents the fourth, fifth, and sixth points of the Boy Scout Law (friendly, courteous, and kind). Stew Stern served as District Chairman and passed away suddenly in 2000.

Finally, the DesRoches/McGuire Cub Scout Service Award is presented to a Scouter for distinguished service to Cub Scout youth in the Pomperaug District. Created in 2010 in honor of Mary Anne DesRoches and Sue McGuire for their long-time service to Cub Scouts.

If you wish to submit a nomination please send them to our district Chairman Seth Strohecker at seth.strohecker@gmail.com.

Program Planning

With summer soon upon us, now is the time for all units to plan their unit program for the upcoming program year. Quality Scouting programs begin with program planning. Unit program planning is an annual process where a Unit invites all families to have input in the program and activities of the Unit. It is also the process of selecting great activities, developing a Unit Calendar and budget and sharing the plan with all the families. The benefits of a strong unit program plan include: high quality and well-run activities, more parent involvement, more youth participation, more funding with less time fundraising, and makes your unit year run more simply and smoothly.

The unit program planning process consists of two key elements: the unit budget and program calendar. Ideally the program planning process will take place with both the adult and youth leadership involved (except for packs where youth are not expected to participate). The process should take several hours to complete, so don't rush through the process as this will just make your unit's program harder to manage throughout the year. The national council has great resources available to aid you in your program planning process and can be found at <http://www.scouting.org/Home/BoyScouts/ProgramPlanningTools.aspx>

In addition, keep in mind the events sponsored throughout the year by the district including:

Cub-O-Ree --September 21, 2019

Fall Camporee – October 11-13 2019

Klondike Derby – January 17-19 2020

Spring Camporee – May 15-17 2020

Recruiting new Scouts and Parents

When to do Recruiting

Recruiting is **year-round**...but most commonly the two main times are in the spring (May) and the fall (September). Units throughout the District have started planning successful recruiting events and activities leading up to this exciting time!

Cub Scouts Spring Recruitment

Don't forget, preschoolers can join the Pack as Lions at the end of the school year. So, by having a sign-up in May, you can concentrate your efforts on the preschool and kindergarten classes. Benefits to having families sign up in May/June include:

- *Giving the new families a chance to get acquainted with the pack casually over the summer.*
- *New scouts can get a head start, especially if they go to Day Camp.*
- *New Lion, Tiger, and all other den leaders can be recruited and trained in the summer, making September go much more smoothly.*
- *The new Lion and Tiger Dens can start selling popcorn early with the rest of the pack.*

Note: Spring recruiting should be used as a supplement to fall recruiting not a replacement. Also, when your pack recruits in the spring, make sure the new scouts have several activities over the summer, you can earn the national summertime pack award!

Scouts BSA Troop Open House

The Scout troop open house allows a troop to swing open its doors and roll out the red carpet to welcome guests. It provides a forum to show off Scouting activities and the troop's accomplishments. It is an effective tool to reach youth who have never tried Scouting. Hosting a troop open house is a five-step process that has been tried and proven in troops throughout the nation. Each of the following five steps is vital to the event's success:

1. *Present a school rally to fifth- and sixth-graders. Give them something they can go home with.*
2. *Mail the parents of interested youth a personal invitation to the troop open house, and an invite through social media.*
3. *Follow the invitation with a telephone call, or email to the parents. Host the troop open house for youth AND their parents.*
4. *Organize a troop or district activity to involve new Scouts right away. Youth join Scouting for the fun and outdoor adventure.*
5. *Parents want them to join for completely different reasons—character building and leadership training.*

Following this plan for conducting a troop open house will help you address the wants and needs of both youth and their parents.

We need the help of every leader assisting their own unit or possibly another one nearby. It's a complete team effort! The question is: Will your unit grow significantly? Steady growth is the best indicator of a healthy unit. Will positive, helpful, and new parents be recruited to fill every volunteer role? The spring is a great time to recruit new leaders! They can begin their adventure as registered leader in a more relaxed setting with school out and fewer activities going on.

Please contact your Vice Chairman for Membership with any questions you may have, or for any assistance with your recruiting efforts. If your unit is planning on holding a spring recruiting event, and you would like some recruiting materials put together, please let us know. We can help coordinate materials, scout talks at the schools, lawn signs, flyers, base camp canopy, peer to peer cards, etc. Happy recruiting!



Camp Physicals

We are rapidly approaching the heavy camping season. In just a few months you and your unit will be going on many big camping trips. Whether it is a trip to one of the high adventure bases, summer camp or even just a week-long trip with your unit an annual physical will be required. Now is good time to schedule an appointment with your doctor to have your annual physical. An annual physical is required anytime you will be taking part in an event that is 72 hours or longer. The BSA has an approved medical form that you will need to provide your doctor to fill out for these events. The forms can be found at the BSA's Annual Health and Medical Record site at <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/ahmr/>. Depending on where you end up going you may require additional medical related forms as well. If you are going to a national BSA location, this site will include these additional forms. If you are going to a local site, visit their website to ensure no additional paperwork is needed. Make sure that you get your appointment scheduled now, as summer approaches it can take over a month to get an appointment and if you can't have your physical completed before your event it will be unlikely that you will be able to participate. So, please plan ahead and call your doctor's office now to ensure that your physical will be completed before any event that will require a medical record this year.



2019 CUB SCOUT DAY CAMP

UNDER THE SEA

Connecticut Yankee Council's Day Camps are week long (Monday-Friday) programs hosted in six communities over the course of the summer. Scouts will experience all the awesome things camp can offer while remaining close to home. Cub Scouts can participate in many types of activities including archery, field sports, nature, STEM, Scout skills, and more. For more info go to: <https://www.ctyankee.org/scout-info/cub-scout-summer-camps>

2019 SCOUTS USA/VENTURERS SUMMER CAMP

If you're looking for something fun and exciting this summer, look no further than Camp Sequassen. 2019 marks the 92nd year that we've been delivering strong Scout programs to troops. Your time at camp will be a very personal experience of learning, having fun and growing in mind, body and spirit in the presence of hundreds of your fellow Scouts. Whether it's because of the camp's staff, the camp's lore, the camp's surrounding natural beauty or the quality of the camp's programs, a week at Camp Sequassen will make an impression on you that will last a lifetime.

For more info go to: <https://www.ctyankee.org/scout-info/boy-scout-resident-camp/>





CUB FAMILY WEEKENDS

**BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY
& SEARCH FOR LOST TREASURE!**

Yo Ho! A Pirate's Life for Us! Listen up ye landlubbers & scurvy dogs! It's time ye joined our pirate crew! A weekend full of pirate challenges & deeds for the whole family. Don yer pirate costume & cast off on a Pirate Quest. Survive a desert island shipwreck, sword fight black-hearted fiends, sing shanties, hear tall tales of crews long past, partake in skulduggery & treasure quests. Solve riddles, defeat traps, and learn to speak fluent pirate, as we explore the secrets of Camp.

Spend the day shooting archery, playing sports, taking nature hikes, BB guns, & doing crafts. At Deer Lake Scout Reservation enjoy swimming, canoeing, kayaking, and at Hoyt Scout Camp enjoy a huge inflatable water slide! At the end of the day, gather around the campfire & sing pirate songs.

The price includes patch, meals, and an all-day schedule of camp activities presented by our talented staff dedicated to giving you a weekend of family memories to cherish.

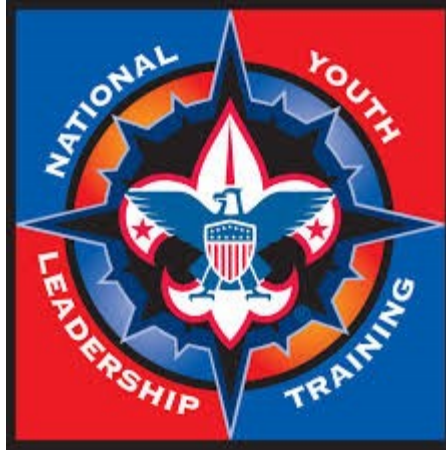
Two sessions to choose from:

July 12 to 14 at Deer Lake Scout Camp in Killingworth

July 26 to 28 at Hoyt Scout Camp in Redding

To sign up for Family camp and or Day Camp please go to the following Link....
<https://www.ctyankee.org/camp/charge-up-your-summer-with-cub-scout-camps/>

Volunteer Staff is still needed at both. For more information or for a staff volunteer staff application call Roger Stewart 203-951-0262.



UPCOMING SUMMER PROGRAM: AUGUST 11- 17, 2019

CAMP POMPERAUG

1174 BUCKLEY HIGHWAY

UNION, CT 06076

WHAT IS IT?

Thunderbird National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) conference is designed for Scouts, Venturers, Sea Scouts, and Explorers to develop their leadership skills. This is an exciting, action-packed program designed to provide youth members with leadership skills and experience they can use in their home troops and in other situations demanding leadership of self and others. NYLT integrates the best of modern leadership theory with the traditional strengths of the Scouting experience. Through activities, presentations, challenges, discussions, and audio-visual support, NYLT participants will be engaged in a unified approach to leadership that will give them the skill and confidence to lead well. Through a wide range of activities, games, and adventures, participants will work and play together as they put into action the best Scouting has to offer.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Any registered Scout currently serving as troop Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, or has the potential to be a SPL. Also open to any Venturer, Sea Scout, or Explorer currently serving in a leadership position or who has the potential to. Scouts must be at least First Class Rank and must be recommended by their Scoutmaster. Venturers, Sea Scouts, and Explorers must be recommended by their unit Adviser. Scouts must be at least age 13 by January 1, 2019, to attend the August, 2019 course.

For more info go to:

<https://www.ctyankee.org/events/summer-2019-nylt-course/>

District Calendar

| May | June | July |
|--|---|--|
| <p>4th - A Day with the Yankees (info: Yankees Registration)</p> <p>7th - District Committee (Trumbull LDS Church, 30 Bonnie View Dr.)</p> <p>10th-12th - OA May Induction (Camp Pomperaug)</p> <p>11th - Mini-Golf Tournament Fundraiser (Sports Center of CT, Shelton)</p> <p>14th - Roundtable (Trumbull LDS Church)</p> <p>17th-19th - Spring Camporee (Camp Pomperaug)</p> <p>17th-18th - BALOO (Deer Lake)</p> | <p>May 31st-June 2nd - OA June Induction (Camp Sequassen)</p> <p>4th - District Committee (Trumbull LDS Church, 30 Bonnie View Dr.)</p> <p>11th - District Kick-off (Trumbull LDS Church)</p> | <p>12th-14th - Cub Scout Family Camping at Deer Lake</p> <p>26th-27th - Cub Scout Family Camping at Hoyt</p> |