

SIMON KENTON COUNCIL'S QUARTERLY MAGAZINE - ADVENTURE FOR ALL!

# THE SCOUTER

FALL 2023

## SUMMERTIME BRINGS ADVENTURE

From the youngest of Scouts to those ready for college, summer activities teach leadership through the great outdoors.



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Hundreds of Scouts each week lived



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Simon Kenton Council's Troop 7318 became the first all female trek to attend Swamp Base.



# 08

## Free Camping at State Parks

Scout units that perform conservation projects through ODNR earn free camping at one of the many Ohio State Parks.

# 07

## Rich Braessler Retires

After 43 years of service to youth and Scouting, Rich Braessler, beloved friend, Scouter, and District Executive, is hanging up his professional uniform and retiring.



### Scouting Family...

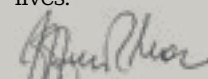
Five years ago, I wrote about change in this newsletter. Back then it was about Scouting opening up to female members in Cub Scouting and Scouts BSA. Well, as the old saying goes, "The only constant in life is change."

BSA continues to change and evolve in its post-bankruptcy operations. And I suspect that change will be the norm for the foreseeable future, until the organization determines what the new normal will be. While some may feel that these changes are difficult and disruptive, I can assure you that the change is designed to ensure that Scouting remains a safe environment for our young people, our leaders and families, and that it can continue to operate in today's world for years to come.

The most recent examples of change are the elimination of prorated fees (effective August 1), and the increased focus on safety and incident reporting.

With the new fee process, youth members and adult leaders who register will now pay the full registration fee, which is good for 1 year. Prior to the member/leader's anniversary month, a reminder email will be sent to indicate that it's time to renew. Administration of this process can be done through the unit or the unit can elect to leave this to the individual member/leader/family to complete.

As we all work to implement this change, we appreciate your help, understanding, and support. Thanks for helping make Scouting a meaningful part of our young people's lives.

  
Jeff Moe, Scout Executive



# MAYOR RICHARD “IKE” STAGE



Scouting has greatly contributed to the community of Grove City. I am honored to play a role in seeing it continue to impact the lives of young people.”



**M**ayor Richard “Ike” Stage, a dedicated public servant and a prominent figure in our community, has been honored with the prestigious North Star Award. This esteemed recognition is presented by councils on behalf of the National Court of Honor for non-registered volunteers who have made a significant contribution to Scouting; on the same level as the Silver Beaver Award. Mayor Stage’s tireless efforts in improving the lives of his constituents and his unwavering dedication to Scouting make him a deserving recipient of this accolade. This article will delve into the remarkable achievements and contributions that have earned Mayor Richard “Ike” Stage the North Star Award.

Mayor Stage’s journey of service began long before his mayoral tenure. Throughout his life, he has been actively involved in various community initiatives, displaying an unwavering commitment to making a positive impact. From volunteering at local shelters and food banks to serving on numerous community boards and committees, Mayor Stage has consistently shown his dedication to uplifting his community.

As Mayor, Richard “Ike” Stage has brought a fresh perspective to local government. Under his leadership, the city has witnessed a period of unprecedented growth and development. Mayor Stage has spearheaded initiatives to revitalize the local economy, attracting new businesses and investments, which has led to job creation and improved living standards for residents. His emphasis on innovation and sustainability has resulted in the implementation of eco-friendly policies and the establishment of green spaces, making the city more environmentally conscious.



Mayor Stage’s commitment to fostering strong community bonds has been instrumental in creating a harmonious and inclusive city. He has actively encouraged citizen participation, organizing town hall meetings, and community events to ensure that residents’ voices are heard. By promoting diversity and inclusivity, Mayor Stage has fostered a sense of belonging among residents, resulting in a more united and cohesive community.

Recognizing the importance of education and investing in the future generation, Mayor Stage has made significant strides in improving educational opportunities for children and youth. He has championed initiatives to modernize school infrastructure, enhance curriculum standards, and expand access to quality education. Furthermore, Mayor Stage has actively supported youth programs, including Scouting, providing young individuals with valuable life skills and leadership opportunities.

Mayor Stage has lent his support and leadership to the Grove City Mayor’s Breakfast over the last 34 years, raising over \$350,000 in support of Scouting. His public service includes two different multi-term spans as

Grove City’s mayor: 1988-1995 and 2019 to present. He also served as city administrator and city council member between those terms. Other notable community involvement includes board service to the Franklin County Convention Authority, Mid-Ohio Planning Commission, Central Ohio Mayors’ and Managers’ Alliance, and Ohio Mayors’ Alliance.

Mayor Richard “Ike” Stage’s remarkable accomplishments and unwavering dedication to public service have rightfully earned him the North Star Award. His visionary leadership, commitment to community development, and emphasis on inclusivity and innovation have transformed the city, leaving a lasting positive impact on its residents. Mayor Stage’s recognition serves as an inspiration for others to follow in his footsteps, to actively engage in community affairs, and to work towards the betterment of society. With his continued dedication and service, Mayor Richard “Ike” Stage will undoubtedly leave a lasting legacy in the hearts and minds of the community he has served so faithfully.

**Congratulations to Mayor Stage for his continued commitment to Scouting in the Grove City community.**



# EAGLE SCOUT BROTHERS



**J**ohn, Thomas, and Grant Rice Jr., triplet brothers of the Troop 859 Golden Eagles at St. Brendan the Navigator parish in Hilliard, Ohio, have been actively serving the troop, parish, and Hilliard community since crossing over from Pack 859 in 2018. All three attended Council events (including Thunderbase twice, Wrenchin' and Racin', multiple Webelos Woods, multiple Merit Badge Super Saturdays, and Aviation Merit Badge) and troop campouts, 5-6 years of summer camp, several hikes (culminating in earning Hiking merit badge), Troop cooking events, and participated in multiple service projects. All attended the 2019 World Jamboree as visitors. John,

Thomas, and Grant are very active in their faith, earning the Ad Altari Dei and being awarded the Red Sash of Merit by the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Diocese of Columbus. In May and June 2023, John, Thomas, and Grant each earned the Eagle rank, the highest in Scouting. Each completed a project which benefitted St. Brendan the Navigator parish.

John's Eagle project consisted of clearing the overgrowth from the shadowbox fence surrounding Wellnitz Hall, repairing it and replacing 20 pickets, power washing 1,000 square feet of fence, and applying two coats of stain. He also cleared the overgrowth from the Saint

Francis shrine, powerwashing the statue and walkway.

He is currently a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster and served as a Senior Patrol Leader, Scribe, Chaplain's Aide, and Patrol Leader in the troop.

For Thomas' Eagle project, he built a shrine dedicated to St. Chabel, a Lebanese saint who impacted the world with his miracles. Thomas laid out and designed the shrine to sit in an area that felt empty to many parishiners. The shrine was erected amidst three trees, selected plants, and cut sod. The shrine was raised by adding soil, adding flowers and bushes, mulch, and a concrete bases for the statue and stone bench.

He has served as Assistant Senior Patrol twice, Librarian, and Patrol Leader twice.

For Grant Jr.'s Eagle project, he replaced wooden boards and a spindle on a 40' railing, power washed it and the walkway, and applied two coats of stain to the whole railing and the underside of the wooden walkway. A fence around the HV/AC system was also power washed and received two coats of stain. Between these is the DiPetro Garden Area, where Grant powerwashed sidewalks and assembled and stained trellises for plants and two six-foot benches for seating.

He is currently a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster and served as a Troop Guide for three years, providing younger Scouts counsel, teaching them requirements, and coaching them through situations.

An extra added dimension to all three Eagle projects is that for two Saturdays, all three projects were going on at the same time at the parish, requiring these three scouts to figure out how to share tools, resources, and volunteers.

# RICH BRAESSLER RETIRES

**A**fter a 43-year career as a professional Scouter, Rich Braessler retired on August 1. Over the course of Rich's long tenure, he served in many capacities and saw many changes to Scouting and the Simon Kenton Council.

Rich began as a district executive with the Central Ohio Council in 1980. In 1987, the Licking County council merged with Central Ohio, and in 1994, the Scioto Area Council and the Chief Logan Council also joined, creating the Simon Kenton Council.

Rich had a wide impact on Scouting in our council. While district names and boundaries changed, he served many, if not most, of the communities in and around the Columbus metro area at one time or another. He served alongside many dedicated volunteers and made many friendships along the way.

Rich also served as a leader and mentor to many district executives and Scouting colleagues. His steady, (mostly!) calm demeanor served as an example for his coworkers.

Our thanks, congratulations, and best wishes for a long and happy retirement go with him as he sets off on his next adventure.



*After 43 years as a servant leader for the Simon Kenton Council and his dedication to the Scouting movement, the Memorial Conference Room in our Leadership Development Center has been renamed in his honor!*



# FREE CAMPING AT STATE PARKS



*Troop 7365 enjoying a great campout after a long day of removing honeysuckle and multiflora rose along the main hiking trails.*

Ohio is a state blessed with magnificent landscapes and abundant natural beauty. From rolling hills to serene lakes, dense forests, and picturesque waterfalls, the Buckeye State offers a plethora of opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts to immerse themselves in nature. Among the best ways to experience Ohio's natural wonders is through camping in its state parks. With a wide range of amenities, breathtaking scenery, and a variety of recreational activities, Ohio State Park camping provides an unforgettable outdoor adventure for visitors of all ages. And with a service project, a Scout unit can camp for free.

Ohio's state park system comprises 76 parks, offering diverse camping opportunities throughout the state. Each park has its unique charm and features, making it easy to find the perfect camping spot to suit your preferences. Whether you are seeking a peaceful retreat or an action-packed getaway, Ohio's state parks have something for everyone.

One of the most beloved state parks in Ohio is Hocking Hills State Park. Nestled in the southeastern region of the state, Hocking Hills is a nature lover's paradise. Its rugged cliffs, breathtaking waterfalls, and enchanting caves draw thousands of visitors each year. The park offers a



range of camping options, including traditional campsites and rustic cabins. Wake up to the sound of birds chirping, hike through scenic trails, and marvel at the stunning beauty of Old Man's Cave or Ash Cave. Hocking Hills State Park is a must-visit destination for camping enthusiasts.

Another gem in Ohio's state park system is Mohican State Park. Located in north-central Ohio, Mohican is renowned for its lush forests, winding rivers, and diverse wildlife. The park features several campgrounds, including both electric and non-electric sites. Spend your days exploring the park's extensive trail network, canoeing along the Mohican River, or biking through the picturesque landscape. Mohican State Park offers a unique camping experience that combines tranquility with outdoor adventure.

In October-November and April of each year, Scout units can stay for free for the weekend while doing service projects throughout the park on Saturday. Whether it's Hocking Hills State Park or Mohican, or any of the other 70 plus parks, Scout units can help them prepare for winter while enjoying a great campout for the night.

To learn more, go to: [www.ohiodnr.gov](http://www.ohiodnr.gov).





# 2023 CLIPPERS SCOUT NIGHT CAMPOREE WAS ENJOYED BY ALL



With nearly 600 Scouts and family members in attendance, the 2023 Clippers Scout Night Camporee was a huge success! Scouts, from Lions (kindergarteners) to Eagle Scouts, called Huntington Park home for the night. Scouts and families not only watched the game but paraded around the field during the seventh inning stretch to heartwarming and welcoming cheers from all in attendance.

After enjoying a great game against the Iowa Cubs, Scouts were treated to a movie on the jumbotron! Popcorn, hotdogs, and snacks galore brought a whole new meaning to "Scout camporee." Scouts and their families woke to a hearty breakfast after a long night's sleep right there on the field.

If you missed it, don't worry. The next game-only Clippers Scout Night is September 9th, when they play the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders. Join us for the game and FIREWORKS!

“ I still can't believe we get to camp on the field! This is the best campout ever!”



# CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE AT SUMMER CAMP



**C**amp Falling Rock is a magnificent summer camp nestled amidst the picturesque landscape of Newark, Ohio. With its rich history, diverse programs, and breathtaking natural surroundings, Camp Falling Rock has earned a reputation as a premier destination for scouts seeking adventure, personal growth, and unforgettable memories. This article explores the captivating essence of Camp Falling Rock, highlighting its exceptional offerings, unique activities, and the profound impact it has on young scouts.

Established in 1956, Camp Falling Rock has stood the test of time, fostering a legacy of Scout excellence for over six decades. Named after a large sandstone outcropping found on the camp's grounds, it has served as a beacon of scouting values and an emblem of outdoor camaraderie. Generations of Scouts have walked its trails, camped under its starlit skies, and formed lifelong friendships within its welcoming embrace.

Camp Falling Rock offers a plethora of exciting programs and activities that cater to scouts of all ages and interests. The camp's diverse merit badge offerings cover a wide range of subjects, from traditional Scouting skills like archery, fishing, and first aid to more specialized areas such

as robotics, wilderness survival, and environmental science. These merit badges provide scouts with invaluable opportunities to learn, grow, and explore their passions.

In addition to merit badges, Camp Falling Rock boasts a thrilling open program, one of seven in the country. Scouts can embark on high-adrenaline adventures like rock climbing, rappelling, and canoeing. The camp's waterfront activities, including rowboating, kayaking, and sailing, provide a refreshing respite from the summer heat. Hiking trails, nature walks, and campfire storytelling sessions allow scouts to deepen their connection with the natural world while fostering teamwork and leadership skills.

Camp Falling Rock embodies the spirit of community, creating an environment where Scouts forge lifelong friendships while embracing the values of trust, respect, and collaboration. The camp's rich tapestry of traditions, such as flag ceremonies, campfire songs, and scouting rituals, instill a sense of pride and belonging among the campers.

Camp Falling Rock's dedicated staff plays a crucial role in nurturing Scouts' personal growth. They serve as mentors, guiding Scouts through challenges, fostering resilience, and

teaching essential life skills. The camp's leadership programs empower older scouts to take on responsibilities and develop their leadership abilities, preparing them for future roles within scouting and beyond.

Camp Falling Rock leaves an indelible imprint on the lives of the Scouts who pass through its gates. The camp experience fosters personal growth, self-confidence, and a deep appreciation for nature. Scouts learn to overcome obstacles, explore new horizons, and develop skills that serve them well throughout their lives.

The memories created at Camp Falling Rock are cherished for years to come. From late-night campfire stories to the triumphant feeling of conquering a challenging hike, these experiences forge bonds and create enduring memories that echo through a Scout's lifetime.

Camp Falling Rock stands as a testament to the transformative power of the scouting movement. It serves as a sanctuary for young Scouts, offering them a haven of adventure, personal growth, and lifelong friendships. Through its diverse programs, breathtaking natural surroundings, and unwavering commitment to Scouting values, Camp Falling Rock should be home to your next summer camp adventure.



**“I had a great time. I made so many friends and had the best time. This was the best summer camp ever!”**



# STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL RECRUITMENT



## Schedule Sign-Up Nights

It is most effective to plan and promote a dedicated night to join your pack at your elementary school(s) associated with your pack. Avoid hosting your initial sign-up night at the location of your charter partner. If you recruit from multiple schools, a best practice is to host a separate join night at each school.

Each school typically hosts a back-to-school or meet the teachers night, which is an additional opportunity to promote your pack. Be present and visible. This should be used to promote, not take the place of your standalone sign-up.

After the initial sign-up night, host multiple second chance opportunities such as an upcoming unit meeting, a service project, or a hike. You can also invite families to fall council activities such as Shoot-O-Ree or Monster Mash.

## Advertise your Scouting Unit

Promote your joining events in a minimum of seven ways.

Distribute flyers at schools, community organizations, and local places of

worship. Simon Kenton Council will print flyers for you at no cost.

Submit your flyer request here (at least three days prior to the event):

<https://tinyurl.com/2023-Flyer-Request-Form>

Update your [www.BeAScout.org](http://www.BeAScout.org) pin and create a QR code that directs families to your unit's information.

### Best Practices:

- Empower parents to invite other parents and Scouts to invite other youth.
- Post regularly on Social Media.
- Tag your town and be sure to share your posts in local groups. Don't forget to share a digital copy of your flyer!
- Put up yard signs and posters at schools, community organizations, and local places of worship.
- Yard signs and Posters are available at our council service centers and through your district professional staff member.
- Utilize additional marketing materials such as event invitations, postcards and bookmarks. Found at the BSA Brand Center.

## Make joining EASY!

They came to join. Sign them up!

Always be prepared with the following information:

- Unit Calendar that lists upcoming events and meeting information.
- Unit Contact Sheet so families can reconnect with you.
- Link (via QR code) to your online application. (Yes, you can still use paper applications, but online apps reduce paperwork, allow families to pay with a card, get Scouts in the system more quickly, and guarantees the proper fees and information are collected)

## Deliver the Promise of Scouting

To empower your unit to grow, the Simon Kenton Council has created a one-stop shop for recruitment resources. Resources are organized by unit type.

Resources include:

- 2023 Membership Recruitment Training Videos



- 2023 Membership Recruitment Kickoff Playbook
- Marketing materials
- And much more...

Additional resources can be found here:

<http://www.skscouts.org/membership>

## Use your Resources

Families join Scouting for a fun character building educational adventure!

To help you deliver the promise of Scouting, the Simon Kenton Council will be providing each new Scout with a glider.

Glanders will be distributed to

units based on paid & registered membership. Pickup should be organized through your Scouting professional.

We encourage your pack to use Airplane Olympics for your new Scouts ensuring your parent orientation meeting.

Additional gliders can be purchased for your pack

Call or Email Ben Mahlke:

Office: 614-310-1332

[ben.mahlke@scouting.org](mailto:ben.mahlke@scouting.org)

Simon Kenton Leadership Development Center (pick up only)

*Recruiting new families and growing Scouting is vital to the future of Scouting in the Simon Kenton Council. No matter what your role is in Scouting, you can make an impact and grow the Scouting movement by sharing your Scouting story and talking to parents about the program.*

Sponsored by...







# 2023 KEY POPCORN DATES

New this year, we have a group of folks who have offered to be an added resource for the Popcorn Kernels here in the SKC. Please feel free to reach out, either via email or on Facebook, to any of the folks below. I have listed the district they are in, but they are willing to field questions, share insights and best practices and be another tool in the tool belt of anyone who reaches out for assistance.

### Gateway District

Roger Bauer - rxbauer@netscape.net

### Polaris District

Nataria Scales - natljones.20@yahoo.com

### Frontier District

Natalie Knore - faerychick27@yahoo.com

### Council Kernel

Rob Recker - recker0824@gmail.com

### Staff Advisor

James Dockter

james.dockter@scouting.org

### Show & Sell Orders Due:

Friday, August 18

### Show & Sell Distribution:

Wednesday, September 6 - Saturday, September 9

\*Specifics vary by District

### Show & Sell Sale Starts:

Saturday, September 9

**1st Swap Day:** Saturday, September 23

**2nd Swap Day:** Saturday, October 7

**3rd Swap Day:** Saturday, October 21

Final Swap Day/Super Saturday/Last Day of Show-n-Sell:

Saturday, October 28

\*Final opportunity to return popcorn

\*\*no returns on chocolate products

### Take-Orders Due:

Monday, October 30

### Take Order Distribution:

Wednesday, November 15 - Saturday, November 18

\*Specifics vary by District

### Last Day to Place Prize Orders & Invoices Paid in Full:

Friday, December 8

\*\*The Simon Kenton Council will not be accepting returns of Chocolate Products. The list of chocolate products for 2023 includes Sea Salt Splash, Peanut Butter Cup, Chocolate Pretzels, and the Chocolate Lover's Collection



## YOUR FAVORITE POPCORN and MORE!

 <p><b>YELLOW POPPING CORN</b> America's healthiest snack food in a re-sealable tub! Pops up tender for that fresh popcorn taste you're craving. Net Wt. 2 lbs. ▲ \$10 @</p>	 <p><b>KETTLE CORN</b> Experience a tasteful treat, sure to satisfy your sweet and salty craving. Net Wt. 10 oz. ★ \$20 @</p>	 <p><b>MILK CHOCOLATY PRETZELS</b> If you like sweet and salty flavors, then you'll love these chocolate covered pretzels! Net Wt. 15 oz. @ \$25</p>
 <p><b>CLASSIC CARAMEL CORN</b> Glazed to perfection with real butter and brown sugar to create a flavor to remember, with a crunch you can't forget. Net Wt. 8 oz. ◆ \$10 @</p>	 <p><b>TRAIL MIX</b> <span style="color:red">NEW!</span> This flavorful treat has roasted peanuts, raisins, butter toasted peanuts, chocolate candies, sunflower seeds, and almonds. Net Wt. 14 oz. @ \$20</p>	 <p><b>DOUBLE BUTTER MICROWAVE (28 PACK)</b> Bring the taste of the theater home with this buttery popcorn snack. Each package is bursting with twice the buttery flavor. Net Wt. 70 oz. @ \$30 @</p>
 <p><b>BUTTER MICROWAVE (15 PACK)</b> Take advantage of this convenient way to enjoy a freshly popped taste with a rich buttery flavor. 0 grams of trans fat. Net Wt. 37.5 oz. @ \$20 @</p>	 <p><b>SEA SALT SPLASH</b> Caramel popcorn dunked in dark fudge and sprinkled with a splash of sea salt. If you have never tried this combination, you don't know what you're missing. Net Wt. 15 oz. ◆ \$25 @</p>	 <p><b>CLASSIC TRIO</b> Everyone's favorite blend of sweet and savory, a snack you won't be able to put down. Mix them together for a Chicago style treat, or enjoy them individually. Caramel Corn, Cheddar Cheese, Natural Net Wt. 19 oz. @ \$35 @</p>
 <p><b>KETTLE CORN MICROWAVE (15 PACK)</b> Experience the combination of the sweet, yet salty flavor of Kettle Corn anytime. 0 grams of trans fat. Net Wt. 37.5 oz. @ \$20 @</p>	 <p><b>PEANUT BUTTER CUP</b> Two classic flavors that taste great together. A melt in your mouth combination of milk chocolate and peanut butter. Net Wt. 15 oz. ♥ \$25 @</p>	 <p><b>CHEESE LOVERS</b> Cheese, cheese, and more cheese! A combination that will satisfy any cheese lover's appetite. Cheddar Cheese, Jalapeno Cheese, Buffalo Ranch, White Cheddar Net Wt. 20 oz. @ \$45 @</p>
 <p><b>CHEDDAR CHEESE</b> Made with real cheddar cheese. Each freshly popped kernel is a savory blend of cheeses that will keep you coming back for more. Net Wt. 7 oz. ● \$20 @</p>	 <p><b>CARAMEL WITH SEA SALT</b> Caramel corn made with real butter, brown sugar, and the perfect amount of sea salt. The crunchy, sweet, and salty combination will leave you wanting more. Net Wt. 15 oz. ◇ \$25 @</p>	 <p><b>CHOCOLATE LOVERS</b> Our Chocolate Lovers tin features five sweet treats that you can't resist! Milk Chocolatey Pretzels, White Chocolatey Pretzels, White Ruby, Peanut Butter Cup, Sea Salt Splash Net Wt. 55 oz. @ \$55</p>
 <p><b>JALAPEÑO CHEESE</b> The unmistakable zip of jalapeño pepper gives this feisty popcorn flavor its heat. Perfect for those who like their snacks with a little kick. Net Wt. 7 oz. ■ \$20 @</p>		 <p><b>MILITARY DONATION</b> Send the gift of popcorn to our military men and women, their families, and veterans' organizations. The popcorn will be shipped directly and is not available for local delivery. @ \$25</p>





# TROOP 7318 - THE FIRST ALL FEMALE TREK TO CONQUER THE SWAMP

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has long been an organization known for its dedication to character development, outdoor adventure, and leadership training. Historically, Scouts BSA programs have been predominantly male-oriented, with limited opportunities for females to participate. Since their inclusion in Scouts BSA in 2018, young women have been granted the same opportunities as their male counterparts. One remarkable milestone came with the inaugural all-female trek at BSA Swamp Base in the Atchafalaya Basin in Lafayette, Louisiana. The groundbreaking journey undertaken by these trailblazing young women and their leaders highlighted their determination, camaraderie, and the impact of their achievement on the Scouting community.

Troop 7318, based in a small town in Ohio, has always been passionate about outdoor adventures. The troop eagerly embraced the opportunity for a new challenge. Having been to the BSA's Florida Sea Base and Philmont Scout Ranch, their enthusiasm led them to set their sights on their next high adventure to Swamp Base—a

challenging five-day trek through the backwaters and swamps of Louisiana. The Scouts of Troop 7318 embarked on a 61.6 mile journey that would test their physical endurance, mental fortitude, and teamwork skills.

Undertaking the Swamp Base trek was no small feat. The trek demanded navigation through treacherous terrains, including swamps, difficult portaging through mud that was, at times, knee-high, and paddling through unpredictable weather conditions. In addition to their own



fears, the troop had to conquer these obstacles while carrying their own gear and food, cooking meals, and adhering to strict Leave No Trace principles.

In order to **Be Prepared** for this arduous adventure, the troop followed a rigorous physical training plan for several months.

“**Lessons were learned on this trek. Lessons about each other, ourselves, the swamp. Confidence and leadership emerged for each of us when it was needed most.**”

The journey challenged the girls physically, mentally, and emotionally. In addition to unfamiliar environmental hazards, they faced fatigue, insect bites, sunburn. The troop had to remain constantly mindful of each participant's strengths and weaknesses in order to work together to reach each destination on time. With unwavering determination, they supported and motivated one

another, fostering a strong sense of sisterhood. Through paddles as long as 20 miles in one day, floating campsites, island hammocking, and a 2:30 am wake-up to paddle to see the sunrise, each Scout and leader discovered her inner strength and resilience, pushing beyond her personal limits.

The troop enjoyed learning about the history, food, music, local industry, and ecology of the area and savored each opportunity to learn more. The integrated program immersed the Scouts in area culture during a well-planned program andz, while on the water, the trek's guide was sure to offer "EduCajun" at every turn and every stop. Beautiful 1,000 year old cyprus trees, hibiscus, native fowl, and, you guessed it, LOTS of gators provided a wondrous backdrop. Returning home with a different perspective of what a swamp would be, they would use words like, "beautiful," "sacred," "peaceful," "inviting," and "spiritual,"

just to name a few. Through the rigor and challenges that arose, the girls also depended on encouragement from their guides and a small group of seasoned, returning "Swampers" who paddled alongside them through the week. Ever grateful for this camaraderie, the troop would leave the swamp with connections to new members of their scouting family from Alabama and Texas. The end of the trek was bittersweet, providing an incredible sense of pride and accomplishment but also tearful and heartfelt goodbyes.

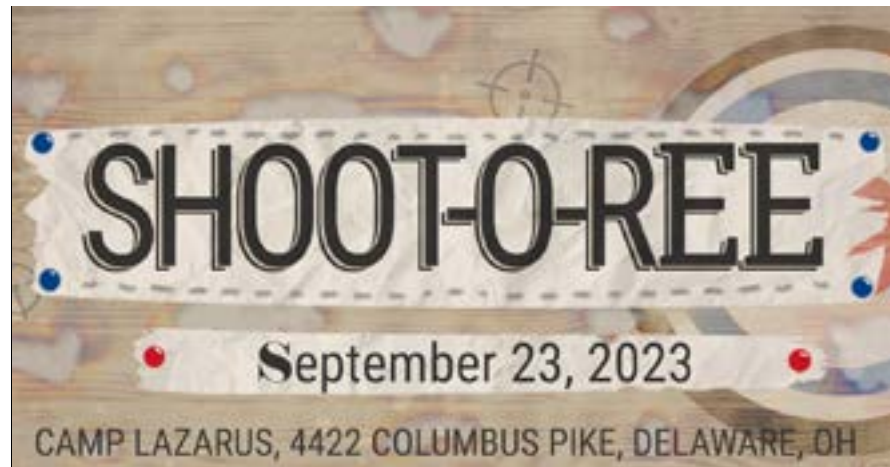
Troop 7318's journey also highlighted the importance of inclusivity and diversity within scouting. The Troop will carry these valuable lessons with them throughout their lives. They learned the importance of perseverance, teamwork, and adaptability. It showcased that Scouting is not defined by gender but rather by character, leadership, and a passion for the outdoors.



*A huge congratulations to our first ever all female crew that also had a female trek guide, on conquering the swamp yesterday!*



# UPCOMING EVENTS...



## Shoot-O-Ree 2023

Howdy Partner! Round up the clan and herd them on out to the 2023 Shoot-o-Ree at Camp Lazarus. All Scouts, siblings, and parents are welcome to participate. This is an excellent event for those Scouts who just joined! Come enjoy your favorite activities and many new ones too!

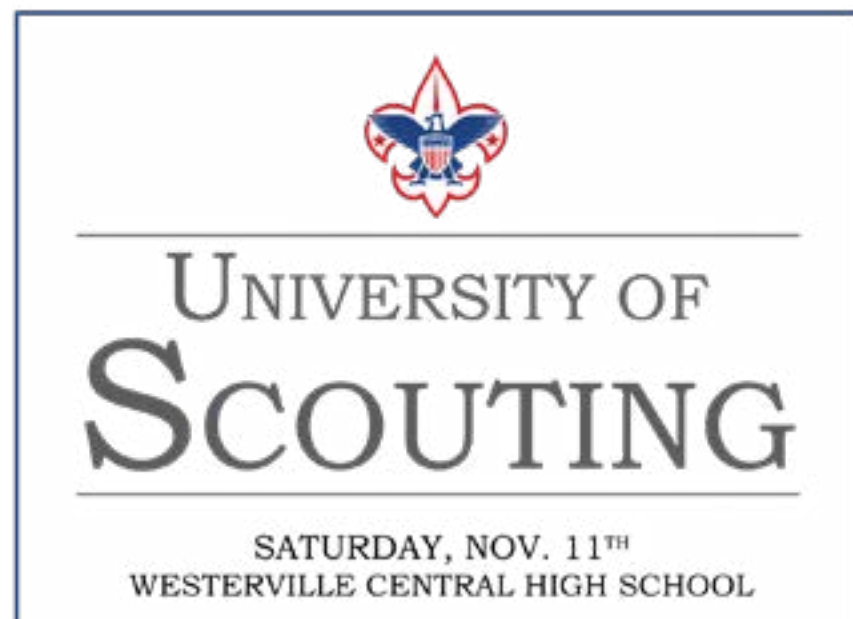
Stay for a couple of hours or come the entire day! There will be a variety of activities. Please dress for the weather! A Chuck Wagon will be available with lunch and a variety of snacks for sale.

**Monster Mash 2023** is open to the public but focuses on family fun. Families have two options:

Daydream - Focused on the youngest of families with carnival games, pumpkin carving, face painting, and a hayride.

Nightmare - For those ready for a little scare, the haunted trail is waiting! Still family-friendly, but a bit more spooky as you venture out into the woods only to be met by creatures from beyond!

Open the second and third weekends of October at Camp Lazarus, starting at 7 PM.



## University of Scouting

The Scouting program has never been as needed as it is today. The honor and privilege of helping youth through Scouting may have never been as important as now. The education of adult volunteers to be able to provide the very best to our youth is essential. Over the course of a single day, the University of Scouting provides program-specific training to help improve attendees' knowledge about many areas of the Boy Scouts of America.

Saturday, November 11th, 8 AM - 4 PM at Westerville Central High School.



## Wilderness First Aid

When you are participating in outdoor activities that take you more than 1 hour away from medical care, wilderness first aid provides a significant difference in survival and effects of injuries! The Wilderness First Aid course provides an intensive 16 hours of training covering injury assessment, rescuer safety, bleeding, shock, orthopedic injuries, long term patient care, and treatment with materials at hand during practice sessions!

This course is a requirement for units traveling to a BSA National High Adventure.

Camp Lazarus - September 16-17, 2023 or October 7-8, 2023



## Breakfast with Santa

Come for breakfast and take your picture with Santa! Mrs. Claus will also have her cookie shop open and Scout skills will be offered. Join Rudolph and his friends for Reindeer Games!

## Out of the World Halloween Camp

Aliens have been spotted at Camp Oyo.

Are they friendly?

Are they fun?

Do they have treats?

Come find out and enjoy Oyo's shooting ranges, haunted trails, crafts, and other Cub activities. Let's not forget the Legendary Story Teller Jeff Davis. Fun for everyone, no matter what your age!





# A LEGACY OF SERVICE AND SUPPORT CONTINUES TO SHINE.



*Gary's life centered on Scouting as the former Scoutmaster of Troop 101 in Warren, former Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 560, ordeal member of Tecumseh Order of the Arrow Lodge #56, and a member of the National Association of Eagle Scouts.*

**G**ary Mansell was a family man, business owner and passionate Eagle Scout. Gary was a mere 13 years old when he achieved the rank of Eagle at Troop 101 in Warren, Ohio. Gary went on to receive a bachelor's degree and an MBA from Youngstown State University. He started his career in business administration as an accountant for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Ohio in Youngstown as a Medicare reimbursement supervisor. As a young man, Gary began volunteering his time with Troop 101, eventually becoming their

Scoutmaster. This began a 40-year stretch of volunteering for Scouting. Gary believed that earning the rank of Eagle mattered in every aspect of his life. He was always encouraging Scouts to reach for this outstanding achievement and to always "be prepared." He challenged his Scouts to match or beat his achievement of earning their Eagle by age 13.

Gary had an opportunity to move to Columbus and work for Nationwide Insurance in 1980. When he arrived in Central Ohio, he became Scoutmaster for Troop 560 in Westerville. His life centered on Scouting and his family.

Personally, Gary always set goals in his life. Achieving the Eagle rank by age 13 was only the first. He wanted to retire early, and he did at age 51. He wanted to design and build his dream house, and in 1997, he did. He left Nationwide to start his own nursing home company, eventually owning 11 nursing homes. During this time, he also started his own public accounting consulting company.

In 2007, we lost Gary to a sudden heart attack. He was survived by his wife, Marilyn, and daughter Sara. They started two funds to support Scouts. One called Gary's Eagles Fund and the other Gary's Eagles Scholarship Fund. Grants have been awarded through the Knox County Foundation and others for camperships and college scholarships totaling over \$40,000 since 2012. After Gary's passing, Marilyn stayed connected to Scouting and wanted to continue Gary's love of Scouting. She would host Troop 560 for camping and fishing at their 19-acre property in Delaware. Occasionally, the troop would hold their Court of Honor at their home.

This year, the Gary's Eagles Fund is supporting Simon Kenton Council Scouts through camperships for youth in Appalachian communities. Their support has helped send 17 campers to day camp and summer camp this year. We are truly grateful to be a part of Gary's shining legacy.



**“Gary always set goals in his life. Achieving the Eagle rank by age 13 was only the first.”**

**TROOP 560**  
WESTERVILLE, OH





**Simon Kenton Council, Boy Scouts of America**

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