

KV Newsletter Supplemental, September 24, 2014

District website: <http://kvalley.pinetreebsa.org/> <-- **NOTE New Web Address!**  
District Facebook Group: Search for Kennebec Valley District, BSA and click Like

Remember, previous newsletter items are posted on the district website.

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### **COBSCOOK CAMPOREE—INFO & LAST CALL**

Brief information below. Full information was sent out to those who had contacted Chris Bernier in advance. It's not too late, but you need to contact him by Thurs. 9/25 so he can notify the park that you're coming. Contact me by 9/25 and I can forward you the flyer, OR if you're on Facebook, go there, look up either me (Scott Bernier) or Moosehorn Camporee as the flyer is posted on the Moosehorn group and shared on my account.

### **Re-Birth of the Cobscook International Camporee**

#### **September 26-28**

Registration Fee \$8.00 Per Scout, an station(defined in the Events below) and a service project to be done by all participants for the park(also discussed below in the Events section) Checks made out to Chris Bernier. Write in the Notation "Cobscook Camporee".

Registration fee will cover your Campsite reservation and a patch to be mailed to your unit leader after the event(due to the last minute switch of gears in the Moosehorn event).

Arrival at Park. You may arrive at any time on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup>. At 10pm the they close the gate but it is secured with a pin. If your group arrives after 10pm, you can still enter the park. The pin is easily removed and you can close the gate and pin it behind your group as you enter the park.

Campsite. The Cobscook camporee will be using the large and small group campsite.

Questions or concerns call Scoutmaster Chris Bernier Cobscook International Camporee Resurrection Scoutmaster. [1-207-660-1599](tel:1-207-660-1599)

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## **WATERVILLE RECRUITMENT EVENT—FREE UNIFORMS**

From Chris Bernier:

Come one Come All to the Kennebec Valley Uniform Bank/Goodwill Scouting Recruitment/Free uniform Drive.

October 1st 2014 from 4pm to 8pm our friends at Goodwill Waterville (Concourse Plaza) will be helping the Kennebec Valley Uniform Bank host a Recruitment/Free uniform drive.

This drive is an opportunity for Scouts to get a free Used uniform and sign up for Scouting with a troop local to you.

Kids who are not Scouts can sign up that night right there at the event. We will sign you into a troop near where they live.

Kids who need uniforms....it's your lucky day! Free used uniforms for all ages and sizes (While supplies last).

How it will work for getting a uniform.

- \* If you can supply a copy of your Scout registration card, you can get a free used uniform
- \* If you can supply a copy of your registration form from this year's recruit you have attended elsewhere, you can get a free used uniform
- \* If you are a scout with a uniform which is too small and need to upgrade to the next size up you can trade in your old uniform for a free used uniform
- \* If you sign up that night and pay your registration fee to become a Scout that night, you can get a free used uniform.
- \* If the Scoutmaster or Cubmaster of any troops contacts me By September 29th the names of any Scouts who you know needs a new uniform we will add his name to a "reservation list". When that boy shows up and signs in with us at the drive he will get a free used uniform. The youth must be present to receive a free uniform.

Please note. These are previously loved uniforms and are all pretty good shape. We only have a few newer uniforms. Most of our stock on Tan uniforms are the older versions of the Tan uniform (usually seen with red epilates).

We have plenty of Tan and Blue uniforms.

We have a hand full of Scout pants available.

We have many Cub Scout Neckerchiefs

We have a hand full of used Cub Scout handbooks available.

We have a bunch of Cub Scout Hats available.

Remember it is First Come, First Serve.

1 Uniform per Scout.

Youth must be present to receive uniform.

The Kennebec Valley Uniform Bank is looking for District Volunteers to help with the recruit and sizing kids for uniforms.

Please contact Scoutmaster Chris Bernier at 660-1599 or [circleofone555@hotmail.com](mailto:circleofone555@hotmail.com) if you wish to help volunteer for this event.

Lets help kids who need help with a uniform.

YIS

Chris Benrier, Kennebec Valley Uniform Bank, Goodwill Waterville.

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### **MADOCKAWANDA LODGE ADVISOR STEPS DOWN**

Bruce Rueger, who has been the advisor for Madockawanda Lodge, Order of the Arrow (OA), for about a decade (I don't recall exactly how long, but he's served under three scout executives), has announced he is stepping down at the end of this year.

When you next see Bruce, thank him for his service to the OA.

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### **BOSTON MUSEUM OF SCIENCE CUB SCOUT OVERNIGHT**

Newsletter editor's note: The info below was sent to me as a PDF form. I don't forward attachments as it triggers too many spam traps. As of press time, I could not find a copy of this form on the council website. I suggest you contact the person listed if your pack wants a copy of the registration lottery form.

Attention All Cub Scout Packs!!!

Boston Museum of Science

Saturday, April 18, 2015

It's time to start planning for the 2015 Overnight Program at the Boston Museum of Science. The cost is \$58.00 per person (Please note: The Museum Charges a minimal fee for parking in the Museum garage during the Overnight.) The museum only gives us a limited number of spaces so we must limit registration to CUB SCOUTS and ADULTS only. Siblings and unregistered youth cannot attend – NO EXCEPTIONS!

Application Procedure

Each Pack must submit a deposit of \$15 for each person who plans attend. Please send a check made payable to Pine Tree Council, along with the registration coupon below. Phone applications will not be accepted.

All applications must be received at the Pine Tree Council by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, November 5, 2014. Please do not request reservations for more slots than you actually plan to use (for those who are selected,

deposits are non - refundable.) A drawing will be held on Thursday, November 6, 2014. Those who were selected from the drawing will be notified, and the remaining payment will be due to the Pine Tree Council by Friday, January 23, 2015. Any reserved slots not paid in full by this date will be lost and offered to those on the waiting list (again, the initial deposit for those selected is non - refundable.)

Those Packs not selected will also be notified and deposits will be returned. Once participants are confirmed, the Pine Tree Council is required to pay for those spaces. It is the policy of the Boston Museum of Science not to grant refunds to anyone who does not participate in the Camp - In, unless the MUSEUM cancels the event.

If you have questions, contact Judy at 797 - 5252 ext. 13 or [jmckula@bsamail.org](mailto:jmckula@bsamail.org).

For more information on the Boston Museum of Science and its Overnight Program, please check their website at [www.mos.org](http://www.mos.org).

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### **CAMP BOMAZEEN 2015 DATES REMINDER**

From Karen Douglas:

The correct dates for Summer Camp programming at Camp Bomazeen are:

Webelos Resident Camp - Session #1 July 12th - 15th  
Session #2 July 15th - 18th

Fun Pack Weekend - July 18th - 19th

Boy Scout Resident Camp - July 19th - July 24th

Cub Scout Day Camp - July 27th - July 31st

Editor's note: Karen asked me to send this out due to an old announcement of the wrong dates still floating around. Those dates were accidentally posted briefly on Facebook, but have since been corrected.

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### **RECHARTER ONLINE ACCESS CODES**

From Charlie Ferguson:

Tony Bessey will be sending out the Unit On-Line Access Numbers.

In Scouting Service,  
Charlie Ferguson,  
District Commissioner

Kennebec Valley  
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## **CAMP ADVANCEMENT**

Important Message on Camp Advancement from:

Karen Douglas, Camp Bomazeen Camp Director and

Chuck Mahaleris, Kennebec Valley District Advancement Chairman

Sometimes after camp we hear from parents or from scouts about leaders in their troops who either refuse to accept that a scout “earned” a merit badge at camp because they feel that the instructor- often a teenager- was not qualified to teach the merit badge or in other instances we hear that a troop refuses to recognize a scout who has completed the requirements for rank because they are “going too fast.” Sometimes we hear from leaders who feel that the scout didn’t earn the badge or rank in question or that the program needs improving to make sure that the scouts truly learn the subject they have “earned” at camp. We take both points of view seriously.

We wanted to take a moment to make sure that leaders, scouts and parents are on the same page regarding advancements earned at camp and put together this joint statement to help clarify questions people may have.

The BSA has changed its position over the past few years regarding advancement. It is always helpful to keep up to date with the latest information available. All of the information that we are referencing comes from the 2013 Guide to Advancement which is a free download from the BSA and can be found

at:<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>

**Overview on Advancements at Camp Bomazeen or Hinds:** Procedures for advancement in camp (either Camp Hinds or Bomazeen) are established by the Pine Tree Council Advancement Committee in compliance with national procedures, and under the direction of the council executive board. The camp director and program director, and the committee responsible for camp program provided expertise important in evaluating practicality. During the summer, the council advancement committee representatives periodically visited each resident camp to assure compliance with those procedures.

### **Who Approves Merit Badge Counselors at Camp?**

Resident camp standards require a letter from the council advancement committee approving merit badge counselors. There are no camp-related exemptions from the qualifications described under "Qualifications of Counselors," 7.0.1.1. For example, Pine Tree Council is not permitted to change the rules about who qualifies. Staff members at Hinds or Bomazeen under 18 are not to be merit badge counselors; however, those with subject-matter knowledge may assist qualified and approved counselors with instruction. Key leaders from our summer camps attend National BSA Camping School prior to the start of summer programs. The purpose of National Camping School is to provide adults with a learning experience and training related to the operation of council camp. The key staff members then, in turn, train and supervise other staff personnel at camp. Classes and activities may take place in group settings, but this must be done in accordance with the procedures described in "Group Instruction," 7.0.3.2, assuring that only Scouts who actually and personally fulfill

requirements receive credit. Neither the Advancement Committee or the Camp Leadership want a Scout who has not earned the rank or merit badge to be awarded for merely attending. At Bomazeen or Hinds, just like at home, the Scout needs to master the skill being taught and have knowledge of the subject sufficient to satisfy the counselor that the scout has indeed completed the requirement. In fact, our staff at both camps understand that they are not permitted to change the requirements of the material they are teaching. If requirements as written cannot be completed at camp, they must be done elsewhere, before or after the camp experience. Scouts would then leave camp with a partial which can be completed at any time prior to their 18th birthday.

### **How Do Unit Leaders know the Camp Key Staff are Qualified?**

There is a week-long training course run by the BSA that trains adults in in Camp Administration who, after completing the program, will be qualified to hold either the Camp Director, Program Director or Camp Commissioner position provided they also meet the other requirements outlined in the National Camp Standards. This isn't an optional training. It is required for all BSA camps. The topics covered during that extensive training program include: Implementing Youth Protection, Scout camping, program resources and management, staff recruiting, staff training, staff organization and management, maintaining staff morale, counseling and developing program staff teamwork; equipment and supplies, health and safety, risk management, dining hall and commissary operations, maintenance of camp facilities, principles of camp planning, records and bookkeeping, trading post operation, and customer service. The course focuses on the leadership and management of the camp operation and implementing the program developed by the council's volunteer and professional leadership.

### **What if the Unit Leader Feels the Scout Hasn't Met the Requirements?**

If unit leadership or others dissatisfied with the quality of advancement instruction at camp become concerned Scouts are being approved for merit badges they have not earned, a report should be filed with the council advancement committee. The form can be found at this link: [http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-800\\_WB.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-800_WB.pdf) and may be used for this purpose. See also "Once It Is Earned, It's Earned," 7.0.4.6, and "Limited Recourse for Unearned Merit Badges," 7.0.4.7. Once a Scout has been tested and signed off by someone approved to do so, such as the counselor at camp, the requirement has been met. If a unit leader believes a boy has not learned the subject matter for a requirement, he or she should see that opportunities are made available for the Scout to practice or teach the requirement, so in this way he may complete his learning and further develop his skills. These activities reinforce the learning, show how Scout skills and knowledge are applied, and build confidence. Repetition is the key; this is how retention is achieved. The Scout fulfills a requirement and then is placed in a situation where he has to put it to work. If he has forgotten what he learned, he may have to seek out a friend, leader, or other resource to help refresh his memory. As he does so, you are able to watch him grow.

**Who Determines if the Scout Has Completed the Requirements?** The basic answer is this: It's up to the merit badge counselor, not the Scoutmaster, to determine whether the requirement was fulfilled. The Scout will have the burden of providing evidence that he indeed did the work. The Scoutmaster still has an important role to play. The Scout must discuss the merit badge with his unit leader before beginning work on that badge. The

Scoutmaster, taking the role of an understanding coach, should discuss their concerns with the Scout, i.e. merit badge goals must first be discussed with the Scoutmaster before approval is given.

**Can the Scoutmaster refuse to give a Blue Card?** The policies regarding blue cards changed with the release of the 2013 edition of the Guide to Advancement. Unit leaders do not have the authority to refuse to give a Scout a blue card. The signature on a blue card signifies, simply, that the unit leader has had a discussion about the badge with the Scout and that the Scout has been provided the name of at least one registered and approved counselor. The discussion should cover what the Scout might face as he challenges the badge. The SM, for example, may suggest that a Scout wait to take Shotgun Shooting until he is strong enough to lift the firearm weapon. The SM could also suggest that it would be wise for a Scout to finish up the badges he's already begun, and so on. The Scout, however, regardless the advice of the SM, is free to pursue the badge.

**What if Leaders or Parents feel a Scout is "Earning Too Many Badges".** Sounds like those parents need to mind their own business. It's one thing if they have reason to believe the Scout isn't properly completing all merit badge requirements. In that case, they should privately meet with the Scoutmaster or his merit badge counselor. Otherwise, there is nothing wrong with Scouts earning large numbers of merit badges. The program is designed to match the wide-ranging interests of teenage boys. Why fault a boy who wants to expand his horizons beyond the minimum number of MBs required for Eagle?

**Can the Unit Leader Simply Not Have a Scoutmaster Conference?** Unit leaders do not have the authority to deny a Scout a conference that is necessary for him to meet the requirements for his rank. If a unit leader conference is denied, a Scout—if he believes he has fulfilled all the remaining requirements—may still request a board of review. See "Boards of Review Must Be Granted When Requirements Are Met," 8.0.0.2.

**Can a Troop Delay a Board of Review?** No. The guide is clear on this point: "When he believes he has completed all the requirements for a rank, including a Scoutmaster conference, a board of review must be granted. Scoutmasters—or councils or districts in the case of the Eagle Scout rank—for example, do not have authority to expect a boy to request or organize one, or to "defer" him, or to ask him to perform beyond the requirements in order to be granted one. In a case where there is concern the Scout has not fulfilled the requirements for a rank as written, it is appropriate to advise the young man that he might not pass the board and to make suggestions about what he might do to improve his chances for success. It is, however, the Scout's decision to go ahead with a board of review or not." The Board can vote not to approve the scout for the next rank but they cannot retest him on rank or merit badge requirements. Section 8.0.1.0 walks through the process for conducting Boards of Review including a section on what should be discussed and how your unit Board of Review can lead to program improvements.

We both hope that this information is helpful to our Leaders, Parents and Scouts. The district and council level programs are a support and partner with your unit program in helping each Scout to achieve the three Aims of Scouting: Citizenship, Character and Fitness. Please let us know if you have any questions about summer camp at Bomazeen or the district advancement process.

Yours in Scouting;  
Karen Douglas, Camp Bomazeen Director  
Chuck Mahaleris, Kennebec Valley District Advancement Chair

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**COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONER SCIENCE, DWC NH**

Daniel Webster Council (DWC) will be holding a College of Commissioner Science on Saturday, Oct. 25, Bow High School, Bow, NH (near Concord).

Full info is on the DWC website at: <http://www.nhscouting.org/event/1530200>

It is open to all commissioners from all councils.

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**AUGUSTA FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE**

Originally shared on the KV Facebook page from the AFD page.

Please come and help us celebrate Fire Prevention Week 2014. An Open House is scheduled at Historic Hartford Fire Station on Sunday October 5, 2014 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Fire trucks will be on display, Sparky the Fire Dog and Smokey the Bear, live Jaws of Life demonstrations and free safety materials for the kids.

Address: 369 Water St., Augusta (just south of Downtown)

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The next regular newsletter will go out on Wed. Oct. 1. Please have your news items into me by 6pm that evening. Flyers need to be copy/paste ready or have a link to their original location.

Yours in Scouting,  
Scott Bernier

“Nothing worthwhile was ever accomplished without the will to start, the enthusiasm to continue and, regardless of temporary obstacles, the persistence to complete”—Waite Phillips, donor of Philmont Scout Ranch.