

Susquehanna District Newsletter

January 2025

Volume 1, Issue 1

Message from District Key 3

Hello everyone and welcome to the first edition of the PA Dutch Council, Susquehanna District's Newsletter. The purpose of this quarterly newsletter is to provide scouts, leaders and parents easy access to the various events and an opportunity to highlight the great work and service our scouts are doing within the District. With this being our first communication, we would appreciate your input on what we are doing correct, and what we should work on improving. Please reach out to any of the key three with your comments for improvement. The [Council Calendar](#), [District Webpage](#) and [Facebook](#) page are constantly being updated with activity, training and roundtable information. **Thank you to everyone that volunteered and made 2024 a great year within the Susquehanna District.**



Special Interest:

Roundtables are the first Thursday of each month.

Scouters and friends (adults 21+) are invited to our Trivia Night on Jan 10, see page 5.

Register for Klondike by Jan 24.

Quick Calendar:

January 10 – Trivia Night
Jan 31 - Feb 2 – Klondike
Feb 22 – Merit Badge College
April 5 – Mack Open House
April 12 – District Pinewood
May 2 – 4 – Council Camporee

Key District Contacts:

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2024 Year in Review

As a District we had a very busy 2024 and looking forward to an even better 2025.

- Close to 50 District Scouts achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.
- Countless hours of community service given by scouts in the District.
- Over 150 scouts and scouters attended the 2024 Klondike.
- Close to 80 scouts and friends attended the 2024 Camp Mack Open House.
- The district held our first annual Social and Trivia Night in April.
- Close to 500 people attended the October Cub O Rama at Camp Mack.
- Collected thousands pounds of food through the Scouting for Food Project.
- Positive membership growth for the District.
- Unit District units are piloting the co-ed troop program.

Roundtable Resources

Roundtables provide unit leaders with the skill to do and the will to do what is needed to ensure that every member of every unit has a great Scouting experience. Roundtables build upon the foundation provided by position-specific basic training and each leader's commitment to serving youth through Scouting.

Susquehanna District Roundtable is held the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church of Strasburg located at 101 S Decatur St, Strasburg. Upcoming Roundtable topics and links to past Roundtables can be found at the [Roundtable Link](#) on the District Website.

District Commissioner Update

The District Commissioner staff works to ensure that all units are successful and have all available resources to thrive. Commissioners provide support and information to unit leaders so they can deliver a high-quality program that attracts and retains youth and adults. Whether working with a pack, troop, crew, ship, club or post, commissioners are key to ensuring units have the necessary resources to provide a quality program for their youth.

See the [Commissioner Page](#) on the Council Website for resources and opportunities for training.

Upcoming Training Courses

The District and Council Training Committees are constantly adding new training courses to the [Council Training Page](#) for both youth and adults. A few highlights are listed below:

- [Basic Rifle \(March 22\) and Rifle Instructor Range Training \(April 3-4\)](#) at Columbia Fish and Game. The instructor certification is one of two trainings required to staff the BB or rifle range.
- **National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)** is the Boy Scouts of America's premier youth leadership development program. NYLT is designed to train all the youth leaders of a Troop, Crew, or Ship with leadership skills they will be able to apply in Scouting and throughout the rest of their life. 2025 NYLT Course is in the planning stages! We are working on a 2-weekend course to be held July 25-27 and August 15-17. Watch this [page](#) for additional information and registration details.
- **IOLS Training** – Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skill at Camp Bashore on April 5-6.
- **BALOO Training** – Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation at Camp Mack on May 9 – 11.
- **ILST Training** - The purpose of the Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST) course is to teach Scouts with leadership positions about their new roles and the organizational and leadership skills needed to most effectively reach success in that role. Completion of ILST is a prerequisite for Boy Scouts to participate in the more advanced leadership courses. Event will be May 31, and location and time are being finalized now, watch the [Council Training Page](#) for additional information and how to register.



Advancement Update

- Council Merit Badge College will take place February 22nd in Landisville. The prerequisites list can be found at [2025 Council Merit Badge College](#). Registration is open.
- A second merit badge college will be April 5, watch the council website for additional information.
- Families and units – please share your Eagle Scout and unit service news with the District so that we can highlight the great work done by the scouts in the Susquehanna District. Send info to our marketing chair, Matt Stewart at wallaby38@gmail.com.
- Landis Valley has a few opportunities for Scout and units looking for service hours or Eagle projects. Reach out to Chet Bowen, bowen17@hotmail.com, for additional information.

Membership Resources

District membership saw an increase in 2024 thanks to all of your efforts throughout the year. The [Membership Recruitment Resource](#) page on the council website has a variety of resources that can be used with your unit recruitment including the BSA Brand Center, School District Flyers, Social Media Resources and Recruitment Material including card templates to be used for various holidays.

Upcoming District Activities

The [District Activity Page](#) details all of the upcoming activities, including dates, locations, leader guides and registration details. Upcoming events include:

- **2025 District Social and Trivia Night** – event is January 10th, 6 PM and the Millerville VFW. Play solo or form a team with friends. Participation open to 21+ only, you do not need to be a scout to participate. See [Flyer](#) for additional information.
- **2025 Zombie Survival Klondike Derby** – event is January 31 – February 2 at Camp Mack. [Flyer](#) is available here. *The Zombie Apocalypse Virus has infected Camp Mack Scout Reservation, and you must prove yourself and compete to survive. Scouts and leaders at camp have become exposed and Klondike Patrols must use their Scouting Skills to survive. Unique scout skill sets have been identified to help Scouts survive the Zombie Apocalypse. Scouts will work together in Patrols to traverse Camp Mack and survive.* [Leaders Guide](#) is available and units can register through [Tentaroo](#). **NEW for 2025 – AOL scouts are encouraged to participate, see Leaders Guide for specifics.**
- **2025 Camp Mack Open House** – event is April 5 at Camp Mack. Enjoy a morning or afternoon exploring all that Camp Mack has to offer and bring a non-scout friend for free. There will be activities including sports, nature, BB and archery ranges and crafts. Make a smore and ask your questions of the Camp Mack staff. Event [Flyer](#) is available here, and you are required to register through [Tentaroo](#).
- **District Pinewood Derby** will be April 12 at the Salunga Fire Hall in Landisville. Additional information will be available soon and posted on the [District Activity Page](#).
- **Council Camporee** is May 2-4 at Longs Park. Watch the [Council Camporee](#) page for updates.
- Information on the **District Recognition Dinner** (June 2025) will be available soon and posted on the [District Activity Page](#).



OA Chapter Update

2025 OA Dues – Reminder, dues for all members, including those individuals completing their Ordeal at the recent Fall Ordeal were to be paid by November 30th! Dues can only be paid online: <http://padutchbsa.org/programs/order-of-the-arrow/>

Next lodge Chapter meeting will be Sunday, January 26 from 6 – 7:30 PM at the Camp Mack Training Center. Focus of the meeting will be OA election training, Elangomat training and fellowship. Check the [OA Page](#) on the Council Website for upcoming events (including Family Banquet on March 30, Fellowship weekend in April and Spring Ordeal in May) and current Owls Nest for event registration details.

Lodge members are welcome to form a patrol and come to the Zombie Survival Susquehanna Klondike. See below for OA specific information regarding the Klondike:

- If the scout is under 18, they cannot attend with the OA if their troop is participating in the Klondike.
- All of the stations will be the same for the patrols and the OA teams.
- There would be a special award for the OA team that does the best, they would not be competing against the various patrols.
- Registration will be through Tentaroo.



Unit leaders, remember to contact Brock Ford (brocker22@yahoo.com; 717-870-5581) to schedule your unit Order of the Arrow election for the Spring of 2025. Elections can be held from February through May 15.

Friends of Scouting

Scouting cannot happen without your contributions and support. Please contact Sheila Fasig to schedule your 2025 Friends of Scouting presentation to your unit.

Council Spring Sale

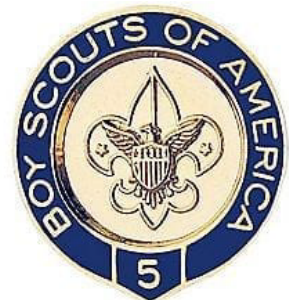
The PA Dutch Council is partnering with Dutch Mill Bulbs for the Spring 2025 sale. This is a great opportunity for your scout or unit to earn money for summer camp or other scout activities. Watch the [Spring 2025 Product Sale](#) of the Council website for additional information and how to register your unit.

Sale runs from January 17 to March 12, with registration until January 10. Registration details can be found [HERE](#).

District Nominations and Awards

Every year around June we celebrate the achievements of our Scouts and Leaders at our District Dinner. We are still finalizing a date and location, but it is not too early to start to think about nominating your unit leaders for the following awards. Details will be shared shortly on the nomination process and timelines to submit.

- **District Award of Merit** –The District Award of Merit is a great way to recognize those Scouters that go above and beyond in their service to others, and the Scouting movement locally. It is the highest honor the District can bestow on one of its members. [Click here for the District Award of Merit Nomination.](#)
- **Scoutmaster of the Year** – if your Scoutmaster is doing an amazing job with your unit, consider nominating them for the District’s Scoutmaster of the Year Award. Nomination forms will be available soon.
- **Cubmaster of the Year** - if your Cubmaster is doing an amazing job with your unit, consider nominating them for the District’s Cubmaster of the Year Award. Nomination forms will be available soon.
- **Committee Member of the Year** - if one of your Committee Members is doing an great job with your unit, consider nominating them for the District’s Committee Member of the Year Award. Nomination forms will be available soon.
- **Spark Plug Awards** - Every unit has a person that provides the “spark” that keeps the Scouting program on track, whether or not they are serving in a registered position. The adult leadership of your unit may nominate one person each year to be recognized at the at the District Recognition Dinner by presenting them the Spark Plug Award. [Click here for Spark Plug Award Application.](#)
- **Scouter Training Award** - Available for registered leaders in any program. Tenure, training, and performance requirements are indicated on each application. [Click here for Scouting Training Award application.](#)
- **Veteran Service Award** - Presented for 5 years of service as a registered volunteer, and for each subsequent 5 years. [Click here for Veteran Service Award Application.](#) You may apply for this award for yourself.





LET THE GAMES BEGIN!



SUSQUEHANNA DISTRICT TRIVIA NIGHT

A FUN NIGHT TO GET TO KNOW OTHERS IN THE DISTRICT

- *Friday, January 10 | 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM
- *Trivia from 6:30 - 8:00 PM
- *Millersville VFW, 219 Walnut Hill Rd, Millersville
- *Cost is \$10 at door to cover cost of trivia and bartender
- *Event is bring your own food - we may be partnering with a local restaurant, more info available soon
- *Drinks available for purchase from the VFW (cash bar)
- *Prizes for winning team



Scan to Register
Your Team

PLAY SOLO OR FORM A TEAM WITH FRIENDS OR YOUR UNIT. EVENT IS FOR ADULTS ONLY 21+

QUESTIONS - CONTACT CHRIS SHARP, 717.201.4740, SHARP.C.E@GMAIL.COM

SUSQUEHANNA DISTRICT

2025 ZOMBIE SURVIVAL KLONDIKE DERBY

January 31 -
February 2, 2025 at
Camp Mack

THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE VIRUS HAS INFECTED CAMP MACK SCOUT RESERVATION, AND YOU MUST PROVE YOURSELF AND COMPLETE TO SURVIVE. SCOUTS AND LEADERS AT CAMP HAVE BECOME EXPOSED AND KLONDIKE PATROLS MUST USE THEIR SCOUTING SKILLS TO SURVIVE. UNIQUE SCOUT SKILL SETS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED TO HELP SCOUTS SURVIVE THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE. SCOUTS WILL WORK TOGETHER IN PATROLS TO TRAVERSE CAMP MACK AND MAKE IT OUT ALIVE.....

LEADERS GUIDE

The Leaders Guide is currently being finalized and will be available soon on the District Webpage. See QR code below

REGISTRATION

Unit registration will be through Tentaroo, see PA Dutch Website or QR code below





APRIL 5, 2025

Camp Mack Open House



**CAMP MACK SCOUT
RESERVATION
2 SCOUT LANE
NEWMANSTOWN PA**



**FAMILY ACTIVITIES,
SPORTS, NATURE, BB AND
ARCHERY RANGES,
CRAFTS FOR SCOUTS**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
AVAILABLE SOON
REGISTRATION WILL BE THROUGH
TENTAROO**

