



Scouting America
Pennsylvania Dutch Council

Special Interest:

Roundtables are the first Thursday of each month.

Quick Calendar:

July 10 – Popcorn Kickoff
Aug 6 – Council Dinner
Aug 7&14 – Recruitment Event
Sep 4 – Sporting Clays
Sep 12-13 – BALOO Training
Oct 4/5 – IOLS Training
Oct 12 - Ride for Camps
Oct 17 – 19 – Fall Outpost
Nov 1/8 – Scouting for Food
Dec 14 – Frosty Fun
Jan 30 – Feb 1 - Klondike

Key District Contacts:

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Susquehanna District Newsletter

July 2025

Volume 1, Issue 3

Message from District Key 3 and Second Quarter Review

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. Thank you to all of the Scouters that volunteered at the Camp Mack Open House, Pinewood Derby and training events. Congratulations to all that were recognized at our annual dinner. The district committee members are always seeking feedback and would appreciate your input.

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 all of our Susquehanna District volunteers.

Key highlights for the second quarter were:

- Close to 80 Scouts and friends attended the Camp Mack Open House, along with numerous adults.
- Over 40 Cubs participated in the District Pinewood Derby
- 16 Scouters attended BALOO and IOLS training
- 3 units attend ILST training
- District held our Annual Meeting and installed new District Officers and Members at Large.
- Over 100 Scouts and Scouters attended our Districts Annual Recognition Dinner



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.

Congratulations to Fred Frey on earning his Doctorate of Commissioner Science knot that was presented at the Commissioner Picnic in June at Camp Mack.

Shared Unit News

Conestoga Pack 146 held a recruitment event at their elementary school picnic on May 22. Weather was a bit soggy, but they managed to serve hamburgers and hot dogs, as well as duck coloring.

Michelle, Ben and John Leed were honored at the Pack 134 Picnic with the William D Boyce New Unit Organizer Award.

Upcoming District Activities

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

- Susquehanna District Fall Outpost – October 17 – 19 at Camp Mack, see save the date flyer on page 6. Afternoon program includes Forgotten Friend Reptile Show
- Susquehanna District Klondike Derby – January 30 – February 1 at Camp Mack

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:

- **National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT)** will be held in Summer 2026 and is designed to train youth leaders of a unit with leadership skills they will be able to apply in Scouting and throughout the rest of their life.
- **BALOO Training** – Basic Adult Leader Outdoor Orientation at Camp Mack on Sept 12 - 13.
- **IOLS** – Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills at Camp Mack on Oct 4 - 5.

2025 Summer Passport Program for Cub Scouts

In addition to your summer camp plans and regular Pack activities, we invite you to include the Pennsylvania Dutch Council's 2025 Summer Passport Program into your plans... [now available](#)! A family favorite for many years and making its return in 2025, the Summer Passport Program is a fun and easy way to keep your Scouts active and engaged all summer long! The program is designed for Cub Scouts and their families to enjoy themed activities that not only promote family fun but may also count toward Cub Scout advancements. Each theme helps Scouts explore the world around them and learn more about themselves. We understand that rising costs can be a concern for some families, so we've made sure the activities in the Passport are **budget-friendly — many can be done at little or no cost**.

Membership Resources

The [Membership Recruitment Resource](#) page on the council website has a variety of resources that can be used with your unit recruitment including the Scouting America Brand Center, School District Flyers, Social Media Resources and Recruitment Material including card templates to be used for various holidays.

Now is the time to start thinking about spring recruiting.

- Are there any events in your school district where your unit (or even a combination of other units in your school district) can host a table or game? If there is an event, but your unit can't be there, let Sheila Fasig know. The council can provide flyers or yard signs. Don't forget Facebook promotion and sharing is a great way to recruit.
- Now is a great time to **update your Beascout pin**. Make sure that your contact and unit information is current, and that your unit is set up for online applications. [Microsoft Word - Be A Scout Pin Set up](#) will show you how.
- PA Dutch Council is planning two Fall Recruitment Preparedness nights reviewing best recruitment practices, how to promote your unit and events. Events are August 7 at Camp Mack and August 14 and Willow Street United Church. Both events start at 6.30 PM. Register for events [HERE](#).

Susquehanna District Dinner and Award Recipients

On the evening of June 11, the Susquehanna District held its annual Recognition Dinner at Ascension Lutheran Church. This event was dedicated to honoring the remarkable achievements and unwavering dedication of our Scouts, leaders, and volunteers who have gone above and beyond in their commitment to the values and mission of Scouting.

A special thank you to the event committee that once again organized an amazing event with well over 100 guests, our Council Key 3 for their comments, Member of Troop 56 for serving as the Honor Guard, and Toby Stone for serving as the youth speaker for the event.

Spark Plug Awards were created by the District to recognize that person that provides the “spark” that keeps the Scouting program on track, whether or not they are serving in a registered position.

Congratulations to the following Scouters that were recognized with Spark Plug Awards: Heather Balay, Mike MacEntee, Robin Kotzmoyer, Dave Kotzmoyer, Dan Hess, Myrna Walker, Carly Ulrich, Kandi Sharp, Chris Sharp, Stevie Glassman, Rebecca Gajecki, Lisa Lyons, Nora Healy, Derik Shelor, Deb Flaim, Lee Summers, Samantha Summers, and Howard Urbine.

The **District Award of Merit** is a prestigious award given by Scouting America to recognize adult volunteers for outstanding service to youth within the district. It is the highest district-level recognition for a Scouter. Congratulations to the following Scouters that received the District Award of Merit at the Annual Recognition Dinner:

- James Dreyer, Scoutmaster of Troop 33
- David Martin, Scoutmaster of Troop 84
- Brian Shimp, Scoutmaster of Troop 56

Other Awards presented at our Annual Recognition Dinner include:

- 25 Year Veteran Awards – Terry Kurau and Robert Berstecher
- Den Leader Training Awards – Samantha Summers (Pack 76) and William Wescott (Pack 35)
- Unit Leader Award of Merit – Shaun A O'Donnell (Pack 76)
- Commissioners Key – Chris Yost and Mike Williams
- Commissioner Certificate of Commendation – Gregg Martin
- Doctorate of Commissioner Science – Fred Frey
- Cub Scout Leader of the Year – Jacob Ault (Pack 82)
- Scouts BSA Leader of the Year – John Leed (Troop 30)
- Committee Member of the Year - Chelsea Fought (Pack 134)
- District Committee Member of the Year – Matt Stewart (Council VP of Membership)
- Commissioner of the Year – Dawn Fox (Assistant Roundtable Commissioner)
- Scouter of the Year – Phil Stekervetz (Pack and Troop 146)

Advancement Update

- 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 the info to Chet Bowen.
- Landis Valley has a few opportunities for Scouts and units looking for service hours or Eagle projects. Reach out to Chet Bowen, bowen17@hotmail.com, for additional information.
- Changes have been made to the Eagle Scout Application. See information [here](#).

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. Our district is blessed to have a dedicated and creative Roundtable Staff. Everything that is modelled at Roundtable can be used at the unit level. If you are unable to attend in person, you can watch on Facebook Live.

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.

Thank you for your participation in Roundtables throughout the 2024-25 season. We're looking forward to another year of engaging topics and great discussions when we restart on September 4. We've been reviewing your survey responses from the joint meeting in May, and we'll soon be revising and completing plans for upcoming topics. The current preliminary schedule (and future updates) can be found on our [Roundtable page](#) on the Council site. Remember, if you can't make the meeting in person, you can check in via the livestream on the [Susquehanna District Facebook page](#), and you can access the [meeting resources](#) within a few days after the meeting.

Please help **both districts** with our Roundtable live-streaming efforts. Go to the pages linked below. Like and follow to help each page exceed 100 followers, which will enable us to livestream Pack and Troop breakouts simultaneously. Thank you! If you have any questions about Roundtable, please reach out to us at: susq.roundtable@gmail.com

[Susquehanna District RT Video page](#)

[Iron Forge Round Table page](#)

District Annual Meeting

On May 29, the Susquehanna District held its Annual Meeting to review accomplishments, elicit feedback, elect District officers and install District Members at Large. Thank you to all Scouters that attended and for everything you did for the District and Committee in the past year. If you would like to serve on the District Committee, please contact Chet Bowen.

OA Chapter Update

A joint Chapter hike was held on June 1 at Kelly's Nature Preserve in Holtwood. Upcoming events include the Fall Ordeal at Camp Mack on September 26 – 28. Register for all events in [Tentaroo](#).

CampMaster Program at Camp Mack and Camp Bashore

The PA Dutch Council relies on volunteers to help run the Council camps over the weekends. They are called CampMasters. As CampMaster you get to:

Spend Weekends at Camp Mack, Bashore, or both
Check-In and Check-Out units
Supply groups with tools for service projects
Attend picnic on August 24th at Bashore

Provide Cheerful Service to Units and Other Groups
Enjoy Fellowship and Fun!
Training Provided and Flexible Scheduling

You are in charge of the camp for the weekend, allowing the rangers to devote their time to other tasks needing to be done in camp. Each camp has a cabin you stay in that is fully equipped, kitchen, bathroom, TV, bedrooms, heat in winter. If interested in the program check out the Council CampMaster page at <https://padutchbsa.org/camping/campmasters/>. Contact Matt Stewart, wallaby38@gmail.com or call 717-587-8409 to get signed up.

Friends of Scouting

Investing in the **physical, mental, and moral development** of today's youth isn't just about supporting them – it's about shaping the future of our community. Thanks to Scouters like you, **1,086 Scouts** in the Susquehanna District received support last year, making a real difference in their lives.

Join us in building an even brighter future – one Scout at a time. All donations stay local and are greatly appreciated – every dollar truly helps! Your gift will allow us to empower young boys and girls in positive and meaningful ways that last a lifetime.

We ask if you would consider making a donation this year to our Friends of Scouting campaign. Thank you if you have already made a contribution! Click [here](#) to make a pledge or contribution online.

Other ways to help support the Pennsylvania Dutch Council -- become a sponsor or participant in our annual Sporting Clays event or attend the Council Recognition Dinner:

- Annual Council Recognition Dinner – August 6, 2025 – see council website for additional information.
- Sporting Clays - September 4, 2025 – reach out to Zena Korba, Development Director, zena.korba@scouting.org.

Connections in Scouting America

The Journey To Excellence (JTE) program was disbanded at the end of 2024. The new program is called Connections. This program tracks six different categories, five of which have a standard for that category. The categories are: outdoor activities, membership growth and unit size, advancement, adult training, and retention. Membership growth, unit size, adult training and retention are completed by National while the other two are completed from unit entries in Scoutbook.

- **Outdoor Activities:** For packs, it is outdoor activities in the program. For troops, it is a long-term camping (like summer camp). For crews, it is a Tier 3 activity. This needs to be updated in Scoutbook to be counted.
- **Membership:** fulfilled a +1 growth over the previous year for a standard unit or maintaining the large unit status.
- **Unit Size:** The standard for unit size is 20+ for Cubs, 12+ for troops, or 7+ for crews.
A large unit is defined as 50+ for Cubs, 30+ for troops or 15+ for crews
- **Advancement:** 30+% of the members for packs and troops have advanced at least one rank. For crews, the youth officers have been trained by peers. This needs to be updated in Scoutbook to be counted.
- **Adult Training:** The Unit Leader and the Committee Chair are position specific trained.
- **Retention:** There is no standard for retention at this point although various figures have been discussed.

The Commissioner core is discussing a proposal for a Council designation (Commissioner Unit of Excellence) for units that have achieved a certain number of standards as well as another item such as a certain number of attendances at Roundtable. The expectation is to roll out the plan in September.

National is tracking the categories listed above. It is important that advancement and outdoor activities are posted in Scoutbook so a true picture of the unit activities can be seen.

SUSQUEHANNA DISTRICT

2025 FALL ESCAPE

OCTOBER 17 - 19, 2025

CAMP MACK

REGISTRATION
THROUGH
TENTAROO



LEADER GUIDE
AVAILABLE BY
AUGUST 1

AFTERNOON
PROGRAM WITH
FORGOTTEN FRIEND