

NOW & Then

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Spring 2014

Adventure in the Northern Tier

Many people do not realize the Northern Tier is the Boy Scouts of America's oldest national High Adventure program. It has outfitted scouting groups for canoe trips since the summer of 1923, and the Charles L. Sommers Base outside Ely, Minnesota, has been home to the program since 1941.

In the winter months, Northern Tier offers the Okpik Cold-Weather Camping program, the BSA's premier winter High Adventure program in North America's canoe country—where navigable lakes and rivers span thousands of square miles. A land of waterfalls and bogs, bears and wolves, granite crags and waist-deep mud, it's nearly as much a wilderness now as it was for the first fur traders who explored in the area in the 1600s. Today, Scouts follow in those traders' footsteps, paddling in the same waters and hiking through some of the same portage trails.

During summer, Scouts from Northern Tier's three wilderness canoe bases (Charles L. Sommers, Donald Rogert, and Bissett) explore millions of acres of pristine lakes, meandering rivers, dense forests, and wetlands in Northern Minnesota, Northwestern Ontario, and Northeast Manitoba. Trips typically cover 50 to 150 miles of wilderness travel. Northern Tier age requirements are changing in 2014: All participants must be 14 years old when they arrive, or must have graduated from 8th grade if they are still 13.

Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base, Northern Tier's flagship base, is on the shores of Moose Lake and outfits nearly 4,000 Scouts each year on wilderness canoe trips. The base is home to several unique Scout programs: the Order of the Arrow's Wilderness Voyage and Canadian



Odyssey; Forest Corps, a coeducational environmental leadership program; and Lone Voyageur, another coeducational program that allows for individual Scouts and smaller troops to take Northern Tier expeditions.

Donald Rogert Canoe Base in Atikokan, Ontario, is an 80-mile paddle from the home base. It offers Scout expeditions into the northern regions of the Quetico Provincial Park, a gorgeous and pure wilderness with only scant traces of human travel. The base also provides trips into the Canadian Crown Lands region, featuring old trappers' cabins, gold mines, and even the remains of a World War II prisoner-of-war camp. The Crown Lands include the Turtle River–White Otter Lake Provincial Park, and the Rogert base has two specialty programs: the Fishing Expedition for crews with intensive interest in angling, and the Kayak Trek, an introduction to wilderness travel.

Bisset Base offers an Extreme High Adventure opportunity for older crews with previous High Adventure experience. A 20-minute floatplane ride transports Scouts to a canoe cache at the heart of 2.5 million acres of remote Canadian park land. A world-class fishing area, it is paddled by only a handful of canoeists each year. A Scouting encounter in this difficult, rugged region builds character!



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Retirement Adventure

Living on the Edge

In 2003, prior to retirement, we sold our home on Sand Lake near Saint Paul and moved to Tofte, Minnesota, where we had been “seasonal” residents for 20 years. The first question from our friends was, “Where?” followed by “Why?” and “Isn’t it cold up there?”

We live 45 miles east of the Northern Tier canoe base in the Boundary Waters. We’re 356 miles west of Wawa, Ontario, and 46 miles north of the Apostle Islands. The only town in the county is 26 miles away, and has a hospital, courthouse, library, and the county’s only stoplight.

Why do we love it here? We are fortunate to have opportunities for fishing, canoeing, sailing, golf, all winter sports, and miles of wilderness trails at our doorstep. A paved bike trail crosses our driveway, and the ever-changing seascape of Lake Superior is a few feet from our deck. The local art colony, folk school, galleries, museums, and concerts showcase the artistic talents of our neighbors. In short, activity, adventure, and location come together. One can rent a snowmobile, boat or canoe, bike, skis, and horses, but not a car. We even have limited cellphone coverage!

With a total county population of 5,000 and 225 in our township, there is ample opportunity for volunteer involvement. We have served on six boards, and are currently active with Economic Development Authority, the county chamber of commerce, golf course renovation, and local politics focusing on senior housing development and community center programming. Jim has recently been appointed to the Governor’s Council on Coastal Management.

We also keep busy with gardening, a small greenhouse—and restoring a wooden boat. That particular interest started in the 1950s.



Our church-sponsored Explorer Post built about 15 fiberglass canoes for their own use and for sale. Then, during the next few years my brother and I spent winter weekends at Scout Camp repairing and recovering a fleet of wood/canvas canoes. Most of our work was simple woodwork and fiberglass patching.

In the '70s we purchased a used, “basket case” Old Town canoe from a camp, and restored it in our basement as our first restoration project. Since then we have added to the fleet, for a total of 24. Some are museum quality, many see limited use, and most are “projects.” We enjoy classes on restoration and networking with fellow canoe “bums” in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The annual Wooden Boat Show in Grand Marais brings us all together.

Our current canoe fleet inventory is 15, including brands like Old Town, Carleton, Penn Yan, Mueller, Douglas, Chestnut, Peterborough, Chetek, Rhinelander, etc. Many of you reading this will remember one or more of these brands from Scout camp in the 1940s through the '60s.

We may be geographically isolated, but we are close to family in the Twin Cities and have an extensive network of fellow retirees nearby. Good health has been our fortune and we have enjoyed recent trips to Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Costa Rica, and England. Continued Scouting involvement includes rappelling a 22-story building in Saint Paul, annual trips to the Scout camp of our youth, and serving as Jamboree staff at Fort A.P. Hill, Bechtel Summit, and Centenary World Scout Jamboree in England. This spring we plan to visit the Baltic states.

Best wishes from the unsalted and shark-free shore of the Sweetwater Sea!

Jim and Betty King

Jim retired as an area director in the Central Region in 2003.

Reunion Highlights

Good Times in Store for 2014

Don't miss an opportunity this year for some fun-filled days at a BSA retiree reunion. There will be big happenings to enjoy all over this great country ... so plan to get away and add another happy event to your memory book with old and new Scouting friends and associates.

Five retiree reunions are planned in the spring and fall. Each will whet your appetite to do a little traveling, see some new places, savor local food and culture, and spend time in wonderful fellowship among friends. Whether you all decide to play a game of golf, take a pleasant walk, listen to the music of a world-renowned choir, or enjoy a nostalgic visit to familiar places, it's all here! Take a trip down memory lane by sitting at the lunch counter of a magnificently restored Woolworth 5-and-10-cent store in North Carolina. Visit the U.S Naval Academy and

walk through the streets of historic Annapolis, Maryland. Hear a performance by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in Salt Lake

City, Utah and visit an Old West town. Enjoy the grandeur of historic bathhouses in Hot Springs, Arkansas, then have dinner while cruising a mountain lake and visit the Clinton Presidential Museum. Take in the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park and the Gerald Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Or just relax and stroll through quaint settings and boutiques.

Don't delay. Make plans now to go to your regional retiree reunion or, for a change, visit one in a different part of the country. You will never feel alone among scouting friends. See you there!



SOUTHEAST: April 21–24. Reunion will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Greensboro, North Carolina, with Sally and Bill Brackett serving as co-hosts. Call 336-375-5552 or email bbrackett1@triad.rr.com. Website: www.bsasrreunion.com

SOUTHWEST: April 29–May 2. Reunion will be held at the Comfort Suites Hotel in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Charles and Nanette Boothe are co-hosts. Call 870-864-804 or email bootcharl@msn.com. Website: www.bsaswreunion.com

WESTERN: August 29–31. Reunion will be held at the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah. Chairman is Tom Powell (email: tandlpowell@hotmail.com, phone: 801-375-5780). Theme: "Rendezvous in the Rocky Mountains."

CENTRAL: September 9–11. 25th Retirees Reunion will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Co-chairs are Bill Copeland (phone: 520-625-2128) and Bob Rydell (phone: 616-994-7035, email: rydellbob@aol.com).

NORTHEAST: September 15–17. Reunion will be at the Doubletree by Hilton in Annapolis, Maryland. Phil Melberg, Chairman. Call 301-948-7121 or email melbergpe@aol.com.

Your Questions and Comments



Question

Allen, I noticed in the 2013-2014 Retiree Directory update that my address and email were not correct. If you can, please change in all records to the correct information I am including in this communication.

Chris Mathes

Answer

The information you provided has been forwarded to the BSA Benefits Center and the next issue of the Retiree Directory should be correct. Thank you for sending the corrections. It is always important for retirees to keep their personal information current and promptly post any contact data changes or corrections, etc.

For efficiency, you are encouraged to access, review, and update your personal data any time at www.bsabenefits.mercerhrs.com.

Navigate to the Wealth tab, Plans, and then the BSA Retirement Plan. Within the Summary tab, go to Personal Information and at the bottom, click on "Edit." You can then update your address, phone number, email address, and marital status. When finished, click on "Save" and your changes take effect immediately. For other changes, you can print a personal data change form (under the Wealth tab, Forms) and submit your changes via the U.S. Postal Service.

If contact via computer is not available, you can personally contact the BSA Benefits Center by calling 1-800-444-4416 and press option 2 when requested. Several security questions will be asked so that you can be connected to a benefits agent.

Question

Allen, I have a copy of "The Boy Scout Book of Good Turn Stories" published in 1931 by Franklin K. Matthews, chiefscout librarian of the Boy Scouts of America. The book does not have any damaged pages and I would like to know if the BSA National Library would be interested in having it.

Allen Boyd

Answer

Thank you for your thoughtfulness, Allen. The BSA does not have a National Library per se. However, the National Scout Museum in Irving, Texas maintains the book and literature archive for the movement. I have discussed your interest with the museum archivist, Steven Price, and he said he will be happy to get in touch with you to discuss your offer more thoroughly.

The museum does not accept unsolicited gifts. Anyone interested in donation consideration should contact Mr. Price at 972-580-2453 or via email at Steven.Price@scouting.org, or visit the museum website, www.bsamuseum.org, for further guidance.

Question

The question sometimes arises, "Does the BSA receive royalties from the Irving Berlin song 'God Bless America'?"

Answer

Here is what is recorded in the Library of Congress on the subject: In the fall of 1938, as war was again threatening Europe, Berlin decided to write a "peace" song. He recalled his "God Bless America" from 20 years earlier and made some alterations to reflect the different state of the world. Singer Kate Smith introduced the revised song during her radio broadcast on Armistice Day, 1938. It was an immediate sensation; the sheet music was in great demand.

Berlin soon established the God Bless America Fund, recommending that the royalties go to the Boy and Girl Scouts of America. To our knowledge the royalties go directly to the Greater New York Councils, and through the years have provided program benefits to poor and disadvantaged youth in the New York area.

Have a question? Have a concern?
Want information?

Send your comments to ASK ALLEN
c/o Human Resources, Boy Scouts of America
1325 W. Walnut Hill Lane
P.O. Box 152079
Irving, Texas 75015-2079
Email: bsanowandthen@gmail.com



Allen Mossman is a retired BSA professional with nearly 75 years of Scouting in his background. He retired with 30 years of active service on the national executive staff and serves as the editor of *Now & Then*.

Proud Moments

The Boy Scouts of America takes great pleasure and pride in recognizing the following retirees for achieving a new milestone veteran recognition status, which has been certified by the Membership Resources Team at the national office and covers the period of January 1–December 31, 2013.

50 years

Joe F. Banks
Ronald F. Barisano
Pat Morris Curd
Isaiah Easterling
M. Keith Kelsey
Christopher R. Klenk
Richard P. Martinides
Richard S. Stewart

55 years

Daniel W. Fleetham Jr.
Paul N. Nemeck
Jay Schwarzman
George S. Sparks Sr.
Stanley K. Watanabe

60 years

Vilas L. Amundson
Ronald Courtemanche
Elmer B. Greey
William David Russell
Jerry D. Spencer
Albert W. Zenz

65 years

Ted C. Hanley
Justin Kneeland
John B. Marshall
Primo T. Paolini
Paul H. Smith
Raymond L. Sutliff
Lawrence R. Thibault
Gene H. Tolley
Robert M. Towne
Thomas J. Whittingslow III
William W. Young

70 years

Robert E. Burt
John M. Claerhout
William C. Graff Jr.
Kenneth John Hesterberg
Glen F. Johnson
Richard D. McNeely
Lucien H. Rice
Floyd A. Siebert Jr.
Theodore A. Taylor
James D. Wilson

75 years

Norlyn L. Allison
Raymond L. Bailey
Robert M. Bentley Jr.
Thomas L. Burgess
Donald J. Kinney

80 years

Robert W. Lundquist
Kendell K. Poulson



In order for BSA retirees to receive veteran status, the following must occur:

1. **A person must register** as a retiree with the BSA National Council by completing and submitting a retiree application and the registration fee. Registration is processed annually. **Note:** If the person is registered and has paid in a different capacity (i.e., unit, district, council, national), a retiree application must still be completed and submitted. No additional fee will be required.
2. **Each person must have a completed veteran application** on file at the National Council. **Note:** The application only needs to be submitted one time. A continuing system will ensure current recognition for each person.

All retirees are encouraged to keep their BSA registration status current through renewal. Those whose status has lapsed may wish to restore veteran status by contacting the Membership Resources Team at the national office and paying their back fees for registration.

Youth Protection Training is now required for everyone who registers as an adult leader. Training is available online at www.myscouting.org or by contacting your local council office. All requests for membership/veteran application forms and questions related to retiree membership status should be addressed to Lynn Adcock, Membership Impact Department, Membership Resources Team, Boy Scouts of America, 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, PO Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079. Phone: 972-580-2513; email: lynn.adcock@scouting.org.

Health and Well-Being

Time for Spring Cleaning

After spending so many hours indoors during the winter, we need to take a little time to clean away germs that have accumulated and could make us sick. It has been said that in certain conditions, some kinds of bacteria can double their presence every 20 minutes.

Our immune systems protect us against most microorganisms, but we need to be aware that many types of germs, especially viruses, are good at mutating into things that our bodies do not recognize. With simple weapons like soap and water, bleach and water, disinfecting wipes, and a little common sense, we can win the battle against germs that hang around our homes. Below are some tips you probably already know about—but we'll refresh your memory anyway!

- Dish towels and sponges hold moisture and can give us problems because we use them for multiple tasks. So keep them fresh.
- Keeping the surface of your sinks clean is a no-brainer, so those usually get a lot of attention. But faucets, handles, and hardware can get just as dirty after you've been handling raw food.
- Don't forget door knobs, cabinet handles, and light switches. Clean them regularly with disinfectant wipes. And remember, it's important to keep the wipes fresh by not using them too many times.
- Did you know that wet laundry left unattended in a machine, even for a short amount of time, is a fertile ground for germs? That's why you should transfer clean clothes to the dryer immediately after washing. If wet clothes sit for more than 30 minutes, run them through the cycle again. If you use a laundromat or any other shared laundry facility, thoroughly clean the dryer drum with a disinfecting wipe and be sure to disinfect the surfaces where you fold clothes.



- Of course, any bathroom facility—including the toilet, bathtub/shower, and sink—is another place that needs our attention. An old toothbrush is a great tool for cleaning around drains and faucets.
- Electronic components are often overlooked, but should be cleaned regularly. And it's been said that an office desk collects 400 times more bacteria than a toilet seat; not surprising, since toilets are cleaned a lot more often. Keep your remote controls, computer keyboards, phones, iPads, etc., clean as well, since those are touched and shared by multiple family members and guests. You can find the right cleaning supplies for these items at electronics stores, and most disinfecting wipes are safe for them, too. But make sure to read your electronics labels first!
- Most of the things we have mentioned are kept at home, so when they get dirty it's primarily because you brought in the germs. The key: Wash your hands regularly for 20 to 30 seconds. To time yourself, just remember that is about how long it takes to sing a couple of rounds of the old Scout camp song, "Row Your Boat."

Now that you have been exposed to all this information, be aware that there is such a thing as "too clean." You don't need to spray down your family and friends every time they walk through the door. Keep everything in perspective, and remember that killing ALL germs can prevent our bodies from building up natural resistance.

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Financial Well-Being

What to Do With All Those Holiday Gift Cards

Chances are, you received or gave at least one gift card during the recent holiday period. If you received one, consider spending it soon because the card may have an expiration date. Also, even though the time limit may be up to five years, the longer you hold on to the card the more likely it is that you will forget about it or misplace it. Likewise, you may want to encourage anyone who received a card from you to take advantage of the gift. However, both of you should give some thought to your purchases and not just spend to be spending.

Verify your gift card's terms if you do not plan on spending it within the next month or two. You can usually get this information by visiting the merchant's store or website to see if any restrictions exist and when they are applied. In addition, look for a phone number listed on the back of the card as a resource. Be sure to write the expiration date on your calendar as a reminder to use the card and not lose its value.

Determine if it is possible to register the card. When you do this, a lot of companies and establishments will offer to replace the card in case it is lost or stolen. There may be a small replacement fee, but that's probably better than losing the total value of the card.

Another thing to remember: Try to avoid having a small amount of value left on the card after a purchase, as that increases the odds you will forget, lose, or discard it. If a small balance does remain, check to see if it can be applied to an existing account with the issuing company. Use your gift in full. After all, it's your money!



Some Money Safety Tips

- When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the 'For' line. Instead, just put the last four digits. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the processing channels won't have access to it.
- Don't put your home phone number on your checks. Use a post office box, if you have one, instead of your home address. And never have your Social Security number printed on your checks. If you do, anyone can see it.
- Photocopy the contents of your wallet – both sides of each license, credit card, etc. – and keep the photocopies together in a safe place. That way, you will have quick access to all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel the cards in case your wallet is lost or stolen.

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Retirement Salute to Bart Underwood

Our friend and colleague Bart Underwood retired from the national executive staff after a 28-year career serving as a valued and highly respected member of the Boy Scouts of America national office.

After graduating from Baylor University, Bart held positions as a CPA and auditor for several companies and local government. In 1985, he decided it was time for a career change, wanting to enter a field of service that would make a positive difference in people's lives.

Since his boyhood Scout experience had meant so much to his own growth and development, he looked into working with the Boy Scouts of America. Bart joined the national staff as the BSA's assistant controller, and later provided key leadership in Human Resources, Compensation and Benefits—administering dedicated support and guidance to our retiree benefits program.

His legacy of caring and service will be carried on by Mark Parsons, a retirement specialist who has been mentored by Bart for several years. Mark can be reached at 972-580-2221.



Let's offer a big—and well-earned—Scout salute and a vote of deep, sincere gratitude to Bart and his family, as he opens a new chapter in life and joins the ranks of retired members of our proud profession.

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