

NOW & Then

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BSA Celebrates 108 Years of Service to Youth

The new Family Scouting Program, another innovative and exciting approach to serving unreached youth, is opening the door to membership and participation for the entire family.

We know that families today are busier than ever, and with less free time, they want convenience. In fact, convenience beats cost as their number one concern.

The latest research has shown that families find our programs not just extremely appealing for their sons but also, potentially, for their daughters. According to a recent survey of parents not involved in Scouting, 90 percent are interested in a program like Cub Scouts for their elementary school-age girls and 87 percent are interested in a similar opportunity for older girls.

In 60 percent of households today, both parents are working, and 27 percent of households are single-parent. More than one-third of parents feel they have too little free time to spend with their kids, including parents in the millennial generation—those who are in their mid-30s or younger.

Today, nearly half of children in the U.S. belong to racial and ethnic minorities, and as is true for everyone, parents and children in underserved communities prefer participating in activities as a family.

We know from research that more than two-thirds of parents currently involved in Cub

Scouting think the program is relevant for both boys and girls and would be interested in registering their daughters if such a program were available. Not only that, but 90 percent of non-Scouting families would also be interested in this type of program!

When Cub Scouts became an official program of the Boy Scouts of America in 1930, it gave boys who were too young for Boy Scout membership an opportunity to join Scouting.

What hasn't been reflected in our recorded history is the unofficial presence of a group that probably numbers in the thousands: sisters and female peers who for decades have been eager to take part in all the games, crafts, and fun events. Many of us remember pack meetings where the whole family, including girls, joined in the fun and games.

The BSA's National Executive Board unanimously voted in a historic decision on October 11, 2017, to welcome girls into the ranks of Cub Scouting and into a program for older youth beginning in 2019, which will allow them to enjoy all the adventure and benefits of membership.

In April 2018, Family Scouting conducted launching presentations in Cincinnati, Ohio and Las Vegas, Nevada. Professional staff and key council volunteers were introduced to the new program and provided with necessary information and details to guide chartered organizations, start new units, and recruit new members into family-oriented Scouting adventures.

Pray all we want, but it will never be the 1950s again. We live in a different and fast-changing world today with diverse values and approaches to life. The BSA's deep commitment to instill the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law in our youth requires that we manage change to achieve our objectives.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Scouting in Action

BSA National Museum on the Move

Early last December, five semi-trailer trucks were loaded with exhibits, photos, books, magazines, displays, statues, and memorabilia tracing the history of the Boy Scouts of America. The museum building in Irving, Texas was now empty, and the contents were on their way to new homes. For many items, it was another step in a journey from New Jersey to Kentucky to Texas. Three of the trucks went west to Philmont Scout Ranch in northern New Mexico, and two trucks went east to the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia. Two large canoes were shipped to the Northern Tier High Adventure base, and Scouting paintings by Norman Rockwell, Joseph Csatari, and others were sent to temporary safe storage in the Dallas area.

The new BSA museum building at Philmont is now in the final stages of construction (see below), and many exhibits, libraries, and the gift shop will be opened this summer. The grand opening is scheduled for September 15. The main exhibit hall, some 3,500 square feet in size, will feature the history and legacy of what we know now as the Philmont Scout Ranch. Displays will span all eras of time in the region, from dinosaurs to the first people, the early fur trade, the Santa Fe Trail, Lucien Maxwell, Kit Carson, gold mining, sheep and cattle raising, railroads, timber harvesting, hunting and recreation, and—of course—Waite Phillips and the history of Scouting at Philmont.

The building will house the Ernest Thompson Seton library, artwork, and American Indian history as well as extensive reference resources that continue the tradition of scholarly research at Philmont. In addition, there will

be a 1,000-square-foot Order of the Arrow Conference and Education Center, made possible by generous donations from OA members. Space will also be available for meetings and conferences.

A significant asset of the museum in Irving was the involvement of volunteer veteran Scouters, many of them retirees living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, who served as docents. They were able to share personal Scouting knowledge and experiences with museum visitors. The same opportunity will be offered again as the museum becomes fully operational at Philmont. The plan is for individuals to serve as docents for one week during summer months, with room and board provided by Philmont for those selected. This is a great way for retirees to return and spend time at Philmont! *More information will be provided in future issues of Now & Then.*

Museum artifacts that were moved to the Summit Bechtel Reserve will be prominently displayed there, enhancing the experience for all visitors and high-adventure program participants. The history of Scout jamborees will be featured, as the Summit is the permanent home of national jamborees and will be the site of the 24th World Scout Jamboree in 2019.

A committee of top-level Scouting volunteers and professionals is currently working to determine the most effective use for the extraordinary collection of Scouting fine art objects owned by the BSA. Preservation and protection of these priceless assets, which portray and represent the history and ideals of our movement, is all-important.



Retiree Adventure

Alert Northeast Region Retiree Saves a Life

Last December, Distinguished Eagle Scout and fellow BSA retiree Ron Rogers was shopping in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Frustrated by having to wait so long in checkout lines, he got in his car and headed back home across the Market Street Bridge. As he approached, he was surprised to see no traffic on the normally busy bridge.

Suddenly, he noticed a young woman sitting on the bridge railing. As he passed her, she stood up on the railing, facing the road. Ron stopped his car and ran toward her, telling her, “Stop! Let’s just talk.”

Just as he reached the spot, offering help and asking her to take hold of his hand, she stepped backward and dropped 60 feet into the cold Susquehanna River. Ron realized he didn’t have time to call 911 for assistance, so he immediately started running down to the pier by the river, where the young woman was in the fast-moving water.

As he rushed, he asked the driver of another car that had stopped to make the emergency call to first responders. Meanwhile, an older driver who had also seen the woman jump from the bridge followed Ron down the embankment. The man was bringing a coil of rope from his car and handed it to Ron, explaining that he was unable to move quickly enough down the steep slope to the river.

Ron reached the pier and, instinctively recalling some long unused skills he had learned as a Boy Scout, tied a bowline knot and threw it to the woman, who was now struggling to tread water. She grabbed the rope, and Ron instructed her to put it over her shoulder. Police and fire rescue crews arrived quickly, but a boat was needed to complete the rescue. So while a boat was on the way, Ron kept the woman from going under or drifting further downstream. Once the boat arrived, she was rushed to a hospital, and she survived.

When the incident was over, Ron climbed back up to the bridge, got

back into his car, and drove home. He was no longer frustrated but humbly grateful that leaving the checkout line had given him the opportunity to make a difference in the life of a young stranger.

As Scouting professionals, we have spent our entire careers telling others that Scouting can make a difference. The skills and values that Scouting instills in the lives of young people do last a lifetime and may even save lives.

BSA retirees across this great country are involved in all kinds of activities that “help other people at all times.” Many are working to get more young people involved in Scouting, while others like Ron—who spends his time working on Shriner activities—are extremely active with service clubs, churches, schools, and other charitable organizations that enable us to continue living out the Scout Oath and Scout Law every day.

To Ron Rogers, thank you for being “mentally alert” and responding to others in need in the true Scout spirit.



Your Questions and Comments

Question

Allen, I enjoy the Now & Then publication very much. Keep up your fine work! However, I need your assistance to correct an omission: In the "50 Plus Salute to Registered Veteran Scouters," my name was not listed under "75 Years," which I qualified for this year. I have received my new card. Please list me in the next issue as an omission: Nelson L. (Lin) Carter. Many thanks.



NRA grants to support gun safety training and programs for members of the Boy Scouts of America in local councils and units. Shooting sports and firearm safety has long been part of the Scouting program in partnership cooperation. The BSA has no political involvement in the receipt of grants.

Answer

Lin, it's good to hear from you, and I am pleased that you enjoy *Now & Then*. Each year in the spring issue, we recognize veteran retirees who have completed milestone recognition in the previous year. The Spring 2018 issue recognized those who reached a new qualifying level of registration tenure between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017. A check of the veteran status records with the Membership Care Team in the National Service Center indicated that you completed your 74th year as a registered member of the BSA in 2017. 2018 is your 75th year of registration, and you will be appropriately recognized in the Spring 2019 issue.

Question

Hi, Allen. My question concerns dollars to the BSA from the NRA. As an almost 20-year BSA professional in Rochester, New York, I know Scouting promotes Youth Protection and two-deep leadership as well as shooting sports and gun safety. Does the BSA currently accept financial support from the NRA?—Jill Orbach, Seneca Waterways Council (formerly Otetiana Council, #397)

Answer

Thank you for your question, Jill. With all the current press and emphasis on public interest in gun control, your inquiry seems logical. The answer is yes, the BSA accepts

I'm writing in regard to the Spring 2018 article "Street Boys in Kenya Learn Scouting Skills" (about Doug Clevinger's visit to the Naivasha Children's Shelter last summer). Doug was the Scout Executive of the Cape Fear Council here in Wilmington, North Carolina, for 26 years. Our Scouting retirees do so many great things that I feel it is important that the community can see what some of them do, plus learn about all the good events that occur with our retirees. I would be thrilled if I could get permission to have this article reprinted in our Magnolia Greens Newsletter. Thank you, in advance, for considering my request. All good wishes to you.—Patricia B. Evans

Thank you, Patricia, for taking the time to write and for your kind remarks. Comments are always greatly appreciated. It is an honor that you wish to reprint the *Now & Then* article about Doug Clevinger's summer adventure with young people in Africa, and we are happy that you want to share it. You are most welcome to reprint it in your community newsletter.

On a Personal Note

Remember that *Now & Then* is your publication. We want it to keep you informed on a quarterly basis and to be what you as a BSA retiree want to read. Also, we want it to be helpful to you in living your retirement. We need your input about what will be useful and interesting to you. It is always good to hear from you!

Have a question? Have a concern? Want information?
Send your comments to ASK ALLEN

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

Scouting Update

Plan to Attend a Fall Retiree Reunion

If you have not been to a Scouting retiree reunion or have not attended one in a while, you need to put it on your “bucket list” for this coming fall. **Remember, you are always welcome at any reunion you choose to attend!** The fall season is a beautiful time of the year to travel to some places you have never been—and relax while experiencing Mother Nature’s fall colors. Pick a destination, and hit the road!



How about a delightful paddle-wheeler riverboat ride with Scouting partners down the Ohio River? **Central Region** retirees will gather at the Quality Hotel in Cincinnati, September 11–13. They have a great room accommodation rate of \$92 per night arranged for retirees. There are several interesting program features at this reunion, too. One is a river cruise lunch, and another is a trip across the river to Covington, Kentucky, for a tour of the boyhood home of one of the founders of the Boy Scouts of America, Daniel Carter Beard. Also, golfers at this gathering can group into teams to experience “top golfing.” Try it. You might like it! Contact Central Region Reunion Chair John Young, cell: (513) 706-8410; email: jyatbountifulharvest@fuse.net



The **Northeast Reunion** will be September 27–30 just outside our nation’s capital at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Herndon, Virginia. It is always a special treat to visit the Washington, D.C., area. You’ll have the opportunity during the reunion to tour monuments in Washington and, with easy access to transportation, you can plan some time to see more of D.C. before or after the reunion. The reunion committee has a great program in store, including an optional trip to George Washington’s home at Mount Vernon (below right), keynote presentations to keep you up-to-date on Scouting today, great golfing, a special ladies afternoon tea, and a lot more fun and fellowship. Your special reunion hotel rate is only \$89 per night, and this rate is available before and after the reunion. Contact Reunion Chair Ron Rogers, cell: (570) 855-2573; email: rogers13@frontiernet.net



Maybe a visit to the **Western Reunion** in the foothills of the scenic Santa Catalina Mountains at the Omni Tucson National Resort, in Tucson, Arizona, on September 17–19, is your cup of tea. The special reunion room rate is \$119 per night, and there is a wonderful program lined up for you to enjoy with Scouter friends. The Omni is loaded with luxurious enhancements that will add to your enjoyment. Here are some of the exciting things planned that you are sure to enjoy: a real western barbecue at Mesquite Gulch, a special tour of the Pima Air & Space Museum, and the aircraft boneyard at the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, where 5,000 active defense aircraft can be combat ready in 48 hours. Top all this off with a tasty Mexican dinner! Contact Reunion Chair Lou Salute, (520) 812-7160; email: lousalute@gmail.com

Health and Well-Being

More Time Outside Could Be Lifesaving

Summertime is upon us, and now is a great time to get out of the house and into the great outdoors. It can greatly benefit your health, increase your quality of life, and maybe even add to the years you'll live to enjoy family and friends. The life you save could be your own!

Being outside strengthens your immune system. The Japanese have long recognized a treatment called “forest bathing,” which can have a substantial positive impact on your immune system by helping to reduce anxiety. The Nippon Medical School in Tokyo found that forests can also enhance anti-cancer proteins and natural “killer cell” activity, targeting tumor cells. Researchers have also noticed that spending time in forests may help to decrease blood pressure and reduce cortisol, a stress hormone produced by the adrenal gland that often leads to overeating and contributes to weight gain.

Being outside lowers the risk of unhappiness. The next time you feel depressed or have any undesirable thoughts, take a walk, preferably through a grassy area brimming with trees and flowering plants and shrubs. Stanford University conducted a study which indicated that taking a 90-minute walk through a natural grassy area with trees and plants led to decreased activity in the cortex of the brain (the area that's functioning when we experience negative emotions or depression)—as compared with those who walked through an urban setting of buildings and structures.

Being outside improves memory and attention. Head outdoors and seek out some greenery whenever you sense mental fatigue setting in. It has been found that walking in green, natural settings, even in cold temperatures, tends to strengthen memory and focus.

Being outside is health-giving. Have you noticed hospitals are starting to incorporate more trees and gardens in recent years? It's not just to beautify the dull landscaping.



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It's because research has found that nature can help speed up the recovery process. A trailblazing study on the subject, in 1984, found that hospital patients with access to a view of nature healed one day faster on average, required less pain medication, and had fewer postsurgical complications than patients whose rooms restricted any glimpse of the outdoors.

Being outside for a few minutes lowers tension. Count on Mother Nature to help you alleviate your stress levels. Studies have found that simply listening to a natural soundscape, such as birds chirping or the sound of a waterfall, can combat stress by inducing a positive emotional state.

Don't minimize the importance of being outside. Soak up the sunshine or, at least, see the sun as often as you can throughout the day. According to research published in the *Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine*, those who had more exposure to natural light slept an average of 46 more minutes per night. The study also highlighted some additional benefits for people who got more sunshine, including being more physically active and, in general, happier. And for any parent struggling with a baby who isn't sleeping well, research suggests that getting some fresh air every afternoon may help them as well.

Consider spending some time outside. Then do it!

Financial Well-Being

Spend Less Than You Have Coming In

Maintaining financial well-being in retirement is a continuing task that calls for wise budgeting and managing your financial resources with alertness, planning, and control.

Retirees face living on a fixed monthly income, adjusting to inflation, and sustaining a comfortable lifestyle throughout their retirement. Constant vigilance and appropriate “savings” action—putting aside a little income each month—is necessary on a regular basis.

It’s impossible to ever get ahead if you’re spending as much, or more, than you’re bringing in. To be able to save when you’re out of the workforce, you must have money left at the end of the month. This means you need to increase your income or reduce your spending. Either way, it takes focus.

A survey in 2017 indicated that 71 percent of workers in the United States were carrying debt, and 78 percent of them were living paycheck to paycheck. Responsible stewardship of personal financial resources is essential to successfully balancing your income and expenses.

First be sure to spend less than your income. This requires tracking your spending, setting a budget, and sticking to self-imposed spending limits. Or, to force yourself to spend less, automate your savings and have money withdrawn directly from your pension annuity before you ever see it. After all, you can’t spend what you don’t have. Just don’t start pulling out the credit cards to make up the difference!

Another helpful idea is to establish a 24-hour waiting period for yourself before making a big purchase. Your definition of a “big purchase” should vary depending on how much money you have coming in. Purchases over \$100 might be a good number for a start.

A little waiting period gives you time to consider whether you really need that new iPhone or if there’s something better



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you could do with all that money. It also gives you time to shop around for a better deal; that way, if you can’t get the item out of your head and decide to make the purchase, you may be able to save some money on it. When you do spend, make sure you’re getting your money’s worth out of every buy.

Plan and save for a rainy day. The only thing certain about money management emergencies is that, eventually, they’re going to happen. In fact, 60 percent of Americans responding to a 2015 Pew Survey indicated they had experienced a substantial financial shock during the previous 12 months. More than half of Americans don’t have \$500 in the bank to cover an emergency, and more than half of all households reporting such a crisis had not recovered their financial balance six months later.

Living within your means can be made easy if you take some time to focus on maintaining financial well-being and adjust to a lifestyle in retirement that can make it happen. If you do, you’ll reduce your stress about money, and your life will be a lot happier.

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National Membership Participation Report March 31, 2018

Lions	42,362
Tigers	134,817
Wolves/Bears	391,621
Webelos Scouts	285,052
Cub Scout–age Youth	853,852
Boy Scouts	682,167
Varsity Scouts	185
Boy Scout–age Youth	682,352
Venturers	39,095
Sea Scouts	2,091
Explorers	64,675
Coed Young Adults	105,861
STEM Scouts	3,759
New Market Youth	3,759
Subtotal	1,645,824
Learning for Life	266,322
Grand Total Youth	1,912,146
Total Adults	709,747
Total Units	76,574

24th World Scout Jamboree Coming to Summit in Summer 2019



2019 will bring an opportunity to attend a world Scout jamboree without the need to travel overseas.

The Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in Beckley, West Virginia will host the 24th World Scout Jamboree (WSJ) from July 22–August 2, 2019, and you are invited to be there!

A world Scout jamboree is the largest camping event organized by the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), gathering as many as 50,000 Scouts and leaders from 169 national Scout organizations. This WSJ will be co-hosted by Scouts Canada, Asociación de Scouts de México, and the Boy Scouts of America. The last time a WSJ was held in the United States was in 1967 in Idaho.

Consider adding the jamboree to your 2019 calendar of activities, and then decide how you want to be involved. You can apply to attend as a leader with our BSA contingent, to serve on the jamboree staff, or to simply come experience the jamboree as a day visitor. You'll be glad you did!

More information can be found at www.wsj2019.us, or contact fellow retiree Bob Mersereau with your questions at bobmersereau@outlook.com

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