

101 ALUMNI QUARTERLY

January 2021 • ISSUE 45



Let's Talk About 2020

The Scoutmaster's Corner - Dr. Ken LaPolla



Have you ever been to a good old fashion stoning? I know that we don't talk about such things like crucifixions and other forms of corporal punishments until the Spring, but I think this is a good time to talk about stoning.

And why? Because that's what the past year has felt like.

It started well, nothing different. We were following our usual routine, meetings and camping.

But then we must have been confused with someone who was guilty, who committed a crime, because it seemed as though we got sentenced for something we are still unsure of. The punishment, a good old fashion stoning.

Was it because of our pride with acquiring the Boy Scout's art collection? (thanks, uncle Ned!)

"Bam," the first stone. Delays with shipment of the art collection.

"Bam," the second, COVID, we couldn't allow the public to view the collection.

"Bam," a September Camporee at the Medici, that fizzled in the planning stage way before it began.

"Bam," what is going on Nationally with our organization?

"Bam," why are Scouts now paying for the sins of those who came 30 or more years before?

"Bam," do we really have to pick on the Girl Scouts

who are just doing their best to help young women become better leaders and citizens?

Ok, let's keep to ourselves. Don't call any attention to our Troop as we quietly pray that it all stops soon as Spring is the time for Troop growth as the new Scouts bridge from Cub Scouting to Boy Scouting.

"Bam," more stones. The Troop and Pack cease meeting due to quarantine restrictions.

"Bam," no Blue and Gold Banquet.

"Bam," no bridging ceremony.

"Bam," no new Scouts in the Spring.

Now I'm dazed and confused. Then finally, is this relief? They must have run out of stones because through the grace of God and Blessed Sacrament Parish, we are allowed to begin meeting again.

"Bam," the local Council steps in; you're only permitted to camp at Boy Scout camps.

"Bam," no car-pooling allowed.

"Bam," no group meals as you're only permitted to bring your own food.

"Bam," (someone threw a small stone by mistake.) - no sharing of tents. No biggie, we got this one. Our solution; day events, small group weekends, then October Backpacking (the perfect social distancing activity).

"Bam, bam," "you didn't use a Scout Camp."

Alumni Board of Directors

Tim Ross President

Ken LaPolla Scoutmaster

Kris Kuszmaul Committee Chair

Stacey Hoover Director at Large

Alan Copp Director at Large

Alumni Committee

Ed Byers Newsletter

Matt McCracken Webmaster

Building Committee

Paul Kuszmaul Builder

Judi LaPolla Fund Raising Chair

But July brought new Webelos into the Troop and Fall brought additional Scouts as well, but not enough to offset the graduating "Skowls." I just opened my eyes. What no stones? They must be holding those for later.

The silence is now scary. What could go wrong?

"Bam," COVID numbers spike just before Thanksgiving.

"Bam," meetings are again on hold as we approach the holidays (Best to wait until the curve bends and we can safely meet.).

"Bam," no Christmas Party.

Editor's note: "Skowls" are Skunk-Owls. Those Owls that recently aged out of the program, but continue on as ASM's while finishing High School or attending College

"Bam," again, another missed Court of Honor.

"Bam," no adult leader Christmas dinner.

Then it stops. There's silence now, is it done? Will we get hit again? We wait. Fingers crossed. Has justice been served? Be brave. Will someone come over and untie us? We hold our breath, open our eyes and take a peek...

-Ken

Goodbye Arrowhead - District Gets a New Name!



The Districts Arrowhead (Trumbull) and Whispering Pines (Mahoning), the last vestiges of the now defunct Greater Western Reserve Council, are soon to become 'one' under a new name.

As of January 1, 2021, Great Trail Council is restructuring its Districts and the number of Districts will be reduced from 7 to 4.

The move merges Arrowhead, Whispering Pines and portions of the Seneca Districts (which serves most of Portage County) into one large 'super District' with a new name to be announced later this month.

All Units and Scouters in those Districts had an opportunity to offer suggestions for the name of the new District with Great Trail Council issuing the following guidelines for the naming process:

1. The new Districts will be named after something historical inside the District borders, or something relating to the history of the area. For example, the area encompassing the city of Akron could be named the "Rubber City District," or in the Mahoning Valley, the "Steel Valley District." Again, those are merely examples from Council.
2. New District names will be both racially and ethnically sensitive to all populations.
3. Native American names or figures will not be used in the naming of the new District.
4. New District Names will not be named after any previous Districts or Councils.

Troops and Packs were encouraged to come up with naming suggestions and submit them to Council for consideration.

The Key3 leadership then compiled a list of the top 5 nominated name submissions and sent a 'ballot' to each Scout unit in the District for final selection.

Announcement of the final selection for the new District name will be made public during this month's Roundtable Virtual meeting.

In January of 2017 The Greater Western Reserve Council, which served Scouting in Trumbull, Mahoning and Ashtabula Counties, was consolidated under a realignment of Councils under the Akron-based Great Trail Council banner.

Trumbull County Scouting and Council history goes way back to March 24, 1919 when an organizational meeting was held by a committee of the Warren Rotary Club. A new Boy Scout Council was formed called 'The Warren Local Council'. Scouting grew rapidly, so much so that on June 24, 1930, the Warren Local Council joined the Niles Council to form 'The Trumbull County Council'. It was not until January 30, 1948 that the Trumbull County Council became The Western Reserve Council.

This Council ultimately merged with the Northeast Ohio Council and the Mahoning Valley Council to form The Greater Western Reserve Council in 1994. Its Districts included Arrowhead (Trumbull) Whispering Pines (Mahoning) along with Headwaters (Lake, Geauga) and Grand River (Ashtabula).

The name Arrowhead was chosen in a naming competition open to Scouts from all over Trumbull County. The name selected was nominated by then Pack 122 Cub Scout Ed Byers, who is also Troop 101 Eagle Scout #91. The Arrowhead District continued for 25 years with various headquarter locations in Warren and Liberty.



SPL Exit Interview

Christopher McMahan - Eagle # 153



Matt McCracken sits down with Senior Patrol Leader, Christopher McMahan, as his term comes to a close.

AQ: As one of the most challenging positions in the Troop, what motivated you to become Senior Patrol Leader (SPL)?

Christopher: While growing through the Troop I had always looked at the role and

leadership position as Senior Patrol Leader as a goal to achieve, it seemed to be one of the coolest jobs. During Summer Camp they were able to lead the Troop as we marched to the parade field, and they were always energetic and excited to host and put-on meetings and campouts. I saw this, and made it a goal of mine to become SPL during a summer term and that's what I did.

AQ: What kind of demos did you plan for your term?

Christopher: While planning my term my PLC and myself planned our meetings to have the theme of either "Scout Skills" or "Merit Badges". Some demos that were planned included a pioneering demo, which would involve building a tower, many unique Scout skill relays, camping, cooking, computer science, first aid and even canoeing merit badges. These were just a few we planned demos for.

AQ: What were you most looking forward to, during your term?

Christopher: Before I had even become SPL, I had always wanted to take up the role during the summer term, which is what I did. I was looking forward to planning the Troop's family camp which would have also been the Troop's 45th anniversary campout. Summer Camp was another big camp I was excited to help plan and take part in as SPL so I could lead our Troop onto the parade field. Finally, the last big campout I was excited for was the Troop's big campout up to Algonquin Canada, I had never been able to make it to this trip in the past from either me being too young or uncontrollable circumstances. But this would finally be my year to go and lead the Troop while I was there. I was so ready for this term.

AQ: We didn't get far into your term. The Pandemic happened, and everything changed.

Christopher: While I was elected as SPL on March 2nd and the Pandemic put all our meetings and events off, with March 16th being our last meeting. At this point it wasn't even my term yet and then when it was time for my term to start, we were still not hosting meetings. At the same time, I was a member of our local OA Lodge Elected Council, we were trying to keep our members engaged as well and we came up with several ideas which I then also implemented into the Troop. One of those ideas I had implemented was an interactive Troop wide Minecraft server so that all the Scouts would have a place to play and hang out together to via the virtual world. Overall, the server took off and was very popular among the Scouts. Then during the second shut down in late November I had challenged the PLC to hold patrol meetings and create patrol movies. They enjoyed the Challenge.

I believe the Troop adapted to the Pandemic very well for what we were able to do. The Covid-19 Meeting protocols, which were instated in July, helped protect all the Scouts and adult leaders from the virus. This was a large effect that helped us to start up meetings again, and still keep the fun of the program. Another thing the Troop did was for a few Scouts interested in First Class Camp. We offered a First Class Camp weekend for them to attempt the challenge. Alongside this event, as SPL, I also made that into a ST21 Day Event for Scouts who wanted to work on several outdoor requirements. Any Scout could come for the day and work on those requirements. In the end the First Class Campers got to attempt their campout and I was able to host a successful ST21 session. Everyone had a blast.



2 Scouts work on Advancement with Christopher McMahan during First Class Camp & ST21 weekend

AQ: What were some of your greatest challenges as SPL, and how did you handle them?

Christopher: Over my entire 10-month term I personally cannot recall any major challenges I faced

that in some way did not come back and point at the Pandemic. Keeping the motivation, joy and overall Scout spirit in the program during these uncertain times was a challenge from my point, as I viewed my role as SPL as the one who was responsible for these things and with no campouts, no meetings for several months, and then the limiting rules in place during meetings and other activities made planning the program for this term challenging.

I feel I handled the challenge the best I could have. As soon as we were allowed to open meetings again, we did so and we brought them right back with the same enthusiasm as if the break had never happened. Every time we had a chance for an event, we would plan something to the best we could. We made every meeting a fun and exciting one.

During my 10-month term, I would consider the most exciting thing I got to plan the November Pioneering Day Event, held at the Jim Potjunas Scout Center. While it had been changed from a weekend to a day event, which was a bit upsetting, we adapted the plans and the schedule, for all the activities. This event was full of all kinds of activities from learning how to use flint & steel, building a monkey bridge, orienteering courses and even pumpkin chucking with catapults. The event went off without a hitch and all the Scouts had a blast. The event was full of fun, excitement and was truly an event to remember!

AQ: What about your PLC?

Christopher: During my term I was actually lucky enough to get to work with two completely different PLC's the first being full of experienced patrol leaders and the second having all first-time patrol leaders. My first PLC I had worked very closely with during the Pandemic to plan the entire term through multiple Discord calls and lots of Google forms. As the shutdown continued and meetings were still on hold, I frequently informed my PLC of what was happening. Eventually on July 6th I was able to hold my first Troop meeting as SPL, and from here I was able to see my PLC in action. My first PLC was experienced but not the most enthusiastic. Then later in September my new second PLC was installed and they were all excited and ready to be a part of my PLC and help lead the Troop. In the end I worked closely with both of my PLC's and both handled the jobs given to them very well and I'm proud of my PLC's.

AQ: What Advice would you give to someone looking to become SPL?

Christopher: Don't be afraid to step up and take the role and responsibilities as Senior Patrol Leader. While the job may seem intimidating at first, once you have the position and after you host your patrol leader training all the hard work is done. By then your term can be planned and now you get to do all the fun stuff such as opening the meetings, planning campouts, hosting campouts and more. I've had a blast as Senior Patrol Leader even with my unusual term. I highly encourage every Scout to take the role as SPL at least one point in their Scouting career.

AQ: How do you think being SPL has affected you?

Christopher: While I did learn a few things as SPL, I personally think my experiences in the Scouting program, especially with this Troop, has prepared me more as a person than the role as SPL alone. I had taken up the job after I had already earned my Eagle award a year prior and this was more of a final goal for me. This may be different to others who become SPL but to me the job on its own helped a little compared to how the program as a whole did.

AQ: So, overall, how do you feel things went?

Christopher: With the circumstances that I had been given and with what I was able to do, I feel my 10-month term went the best it could have. The Scouts always seemed to have fun during our Troop meetings and our events. I view it as an overall success.

AQ: What's next, now that your term as SPL is coming to a close?

Christopher: My term will end on January 11th, due to my birthday being the day after, so, I will end my Scouting career as a youth and start my Scouting career as an adult. I plan to immediately step up as an Assistant Scoutmaster and I plan to continue to stay active in the program, council and lodge. With myself aging out I'm currently planning on going to college for computer science and data analytics.

I'd like to say thank you to everyone's support and help during this term from all the Scouts to all the adults, it's been a bit unusual but we pulled through and we've finished this term strong. I'll now be passing on the torch of leadership to the next SPL and I wish him and everyone after him the best of luck in the terms ahead.



November "Pioneer Day" activities
Primitive Firebuilding



Alex Savakis is one of our Alumnus who faithfully continues to serve the Troop, years after his son aged-out and earned his Eagle Scout rank.

He serves the people of Trumbull County as a Family Court Magistrate, a position he has held for many years. His cheerful and caring personality has made him one of the Troop's favorite people of all-time. We chatted with Alex just before the Holiday Season.

AQ: Bring us up to date on the Savakis family these days.

Alex: My wife, Cynthia and I are still working. My son Michael-Jerry who is a Troop 101 Eagle (the Troop's 101st Eagle) and daughter Katherine who was a 101 Venture Scout, both were married in 2019. Katherine is a Registered Nurse and working with mental health patients. She is currently taking nursing classes at Kent State University to become a nurse practitioner in the mental health field.

Michael-Jerry is no longer in the Marine Corp reserve, he has a bachelor's degree from Youngstown State University as a paramedic. He served as a paramedic in Greenville County, South Carolina, for about 7 years, but wanted to work for the Sheriff as a paramedic and was directed to attend South Carolina Police Academy. He is currently a Deputy Sheriff for Greenville County, South Carolina.

AQ: Just recently you returned to a Troop

Meeting help the Scouts with your Dutch Oven expertise and you continue to counsel Merit Badges. What drives you to keep coming back?

Alex: It's the people, adults and youth, the Troop focus on the Scout program. We have good leadership, good adult participation and youth who want to advance. There is a lot of experience that helps the newcomer meet their goal of participation.

They say I am pretty good with a dutch oven. It had to be learned, as I never used one prior to 2000. Gosh, they seemed ugly. But after both success and failure, I learned to love them. I look back and wonder what I would be without that experience.

I mostly merit badge counsel the Scouts for the three Citizenships: Community, Nation, and World. What you learn from them! I have been counseling for twenty years and sometimes they can take a topic and develop it in a way no one did earlier.

With the Nation Citizenship, the Scout is asked to write about a speech and comment on it. Most of the time, because of the connection to our bike trip, Washington DC, and a side trip to Gettysburg, the Scout will pick the Gettysburg Address by Lincoln. We will talk about the battle, the experience of visiting the battlefield, and talk about the lives that were lost.

This last time, the Scout who I was counseling, focused not on the loss of life or the hallowing of the

battlefield, but focused that the event and speech speaks to us, a later generation of Americans. We are called upon to recognize that just as that Civil War generation took a horrific event and made it a starting point for 'one nation under God', it is a message to us in 2020 to begin our own healing and plan for unity. If the past generation of 150 years ago could succeed despite their grievances, so we too can succeed.

AQ: Sounds as though you continue to get a lot out of your involvement even though you took a little break several years ago.

Alex: I have learned so much from both adult and Scout that I wish to continue. I had stopped camping with the Troop in 2013 or so because I needed to spend time taking care of my elderly mother. By 2017 it seemed that her time was coming and I spoke with Jim Potjunas during our pre-summer camp visit to Manatoc about camping again.

The genius of the Troop is that it encourages participants to find a level of comfort in a job or task for the unit that builds along the individual's interest and talent. Yes, there are fixed jobs, but the unit has plenty of slack for one to pursue other tasks that help the unit as a whole. Unfortunately, we lost Jim on the trip to Canada that August, but his leadership mold is very much alive at Troop 101 and should encourage adults and youth to participate and contribute. For me, that has meant my continuation of merit badge counseling. Personally, the experience has been very satisfying.





Jack Norton, John McClearn, and Alex
Summer Camp Bistro

AQ: Troop 101 has obviously been a huge part of your family over the years. What is your hope and vision going forward?

Alex: We have a unique Troop home, that projects permanency and stability. Adult leadership is essential to keep the boys coming to the unit. With the boys coming in, we need to promote the parents and other adults to continue participation. It is a cycle of program and facilities attracting youth, which causes parents and other adults to participate, which attracts more youth. My hope is that the cycle continues into the future.

AQ: We always pose this with everyone who participates in these articles; you must have a lot of memories from your years of service with the Troop, going back to your first day coming aboard the Troop with your son?

Alex: Gosh, every trip and campout was an adventure. My first big campout with Troop 101 was the Bike Trip down the C&O Canal bike path in the summer of 2000, camping at night along the way. My son Michael-Jerry had just crossed over from Pack 122 Webelos and both of us had a moment on the Bike Trip that caused us to question our continuation in the program, but both of us got support from individuals to continue. And when it was all over with, we could take pride and joy in what we accomplished.

I also get great satisfaction seeing the Scouts progress through the ranks and gaining confidence. But as an adult who was not a Boy Scout, there is the satisfaction of achieving skills that I never had the opportunity to learn earlier, like making a Dutch-oven meal, or canoeing, or learning to load and fire a musket, or sleeping in a tent during Winter Event with temperatures below zero (and being warm)!

AQ: What are some of the significant changes in Scouting you have seen over the years?

Alex: The events of 9/11 drove our membership numbers up. They have come down from 2001 levels, but still the Scout Motto of 'Be Prepared' focuses the community to look upon Scout skills as a necessity for a free and strong community. The Norman Rockwell collection being moved to Trumbull County is just remarkable. It again focuses the community on the positives of Scouting, attracting not just youth but also adults as leaders.

AQ: What do you see as our challenges?

Alex: I am a graduate of Scouting's Woodbadge Course and change is something that will always happen. I remember talks with Jim Potjunas about the continual change in the Troop as boys age-out. Just when you get them trained, the boys move on. But change is not bad.

Woodbadge teaches that change is a 'plannable opportunity' to make things better. One cannot stop things from changing, so plan for the change! Our unit has been pretty successful in planning one or two steps ahead of the need to address the issues that come with change.

I also remember our first two years at Manatoc's Summer Camp was spent at a site that had a chestnut cabin structure, as old as the Camp's dining hall. Adults used the cabin for sleeping quarters and the youth had tents. The building was hot, and as it turned out, the tents were better and cooler. We woke up one morning to find Al Copp with a bat sleeping at his side! It seems the bats had an arrangement with the raccoons. We had an 'air raid' by the bats one evening, so we opened the door to let them out, but the raccoons came in and stole our cookies. The raccoons were a hungry pack and would look for food in the Scout tents. One night, a pair of raccoons raided the same tent, stole a backpack, and then fought over the pack. There was no food inside the pack! We figured the raccoons smelled something that had been in there but had long been eaten by the scout. That was the end of that site for summer camp.

We moved to an area closer to the dining hall and the swimming pool. It was frequented by wild turkeys, deer who left their babies in the protected area lined by rope by Scouts for the axe yard (no fawns were hurt; and we were never paid for day care) and an occasional skunk (the 4-legged kind); and sometimes we could hear coyotes at night.

One year a family of skunks occupied one of our tents. The area was roped off by the Manatoc staff. We did not bother the skunks during the day, and they did not bother us at night.

Also, at Manatoc, it never failed that our summer camp was always around Jim Potjunas's birthday. It is a Manatoc tradition that if you have a birthday during Summer Camp, you must climb a ladder during a meal that day at the dining hall and 'kiss the moose' or some other stuffed trophy that hangs on the wall. The deal was that no one could tell the camp staff that it was Mr. P's birthday, or we would return to Manatoc for summer camp during the Holiday. The unit really liked the week after the fourth of July, so the secret was well kept from the staff.

AQ: It just dawned on us that you have been around long enough to recall the Troop camping at Chickagami.

Alex: Sure. The Troop used to attend Winter Event at Chickagami, in tents! One January we were in tents at minus 10-degrees! It was the year we put our eggs in the coolers to keep them warm. Another year, the January campout was so warm, there was mud on the ground! The Event was run by Scouts in tee shirts.

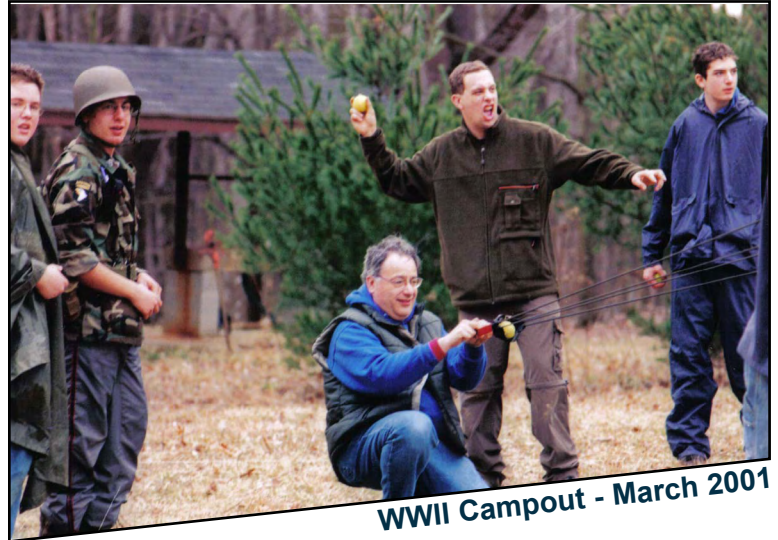
There was also Camp McKinley in Columbiana County where we camped frequently. One year we had a dutch oven demonstration by a professional cook who brought a long chuck wagon. He was leaving Ohio for the west and planned to work at a ranch where visitors could experience a trip by horse, with he and his chuck wagon providing the food.

My first camp out at McKinley was in 2001. It was an unusually warm Friday and Saturday. The Scouts planned a World War II weekend, with the Scouts leaving the vehicles at the camp gate that dark Friday night and using a map to find the campsite. This was the beginning of their adventure that weekend, pretending they were being dropped into McKinley by parachute.

That Saturday morning (still unusually warm and shirt-sleeve weather), the adults and older Scouts laid out a compass course with directions given them to navigate a mine field. If they laid an incorrect path, they 'blew up' and received first aid. There were other stations; firing rifles, launching a "canon barrage" (using sling shots and balloons), and a sneak attack on an arsenal. Members of the National Guard even rigged smoke bombs to go off with colored clouds of smoke. Great day!

That afternoon, wind and storm warnings were issued as March temperatures returned. Our campsite

at McKinley was in a valley, along a river. That night, you could hear the storm launching salvos of high wind at us. Several tents were destroyed. The rain that came at us was horizontal. Rain flies were useless. Potjunas ranked it as one of the four or five worst weather evenings he had experienced. Terrible weather, but still great fun.



AQ: You mentioned Algonquin earlier, but there was another Canadian trip you were on?

Alex: Yes. Another memorable camp out was to Point Pelee, Canada, the southern-most point of Ontario and the Canadian mainland. Point Pelee was formed by the different rotations of Lake Erie's waters. The western part of the lake rotates clockwise, and the eastern part rotates counter-clockwise. These rotations are like hands forming the point of sandy land jutting out into the lake. The Troop went to the beach and walked out to the very end of the point. To the left of us, was the larger eastern part of Lake Erie and it was very rough, but to the right of us, the western part of Lake Erie as calm as glass. Potjunas explained that the western part of the Lake was of a different depth than the east. It was the western part of the Lake we used to canoe on our trip to Point Pelee.

While at Point Pelee we visited the Canadian War Monument and I climbed a tower with Potjunas to overlook the memorial. Birds were on the tower and P raised his hand as a perch to one of the birds and whistled. The bird came and rested on his hand. Talk about magic! Then a return to reality: a herd of Scouts came running up the tower and the bird fled. P and I shrugged, and it was time to return to mentoring Scouts.

AQ: Not only were there your camping experiences,

but you and your whole family were involved in so many Troop 101 functions over the years.

Alex: My wife Cynthia was Troop 101 Spaghetti Dinner chair for a couple of years. Back then, we would assemble at the Copp residence in advance to make the meatballs. The event itself was held at the former Elks Lodge home on Youngstown Road and, as the event grew, we could no longer make enough meatballs at a residence so we used the lodge home of the AHEPA down the street from the Elks to make more meatballs. (The AHEPA is an ethnic Greek organization dedicated to education). The Lodge home has a large kitchen and dining area, which was set up into an assembly line for making meatballs. Andy McCracken and I were in charge of mixing the meat with spices, eggs, and bread. Barbara Rosenblum and her Girl Scouts would fashion the meat into meatballs and the 101 Eagles Wings Auxiliary would then broil the meatballs and package them. We would make over 1000 meatballs for the 101 Spaghetti Dinner and do it all in one night! I recall it being a happy crew, working hard and joking at every opportunity.

AQ: The Troop program certainly has all of these rewards — and challenges, but it seems as though just as you learn everything it takes to be a good leader, it's time to go.

Alex: Yes. There were times P and I spoke about the process of Scouting. Just when the Troop and Scouts were all trained and everything in the Troop was running like clockwork, someone was either aging out of the program and off to college or moving on to another life experience. I asked him how he handled



Alex showing a Cooking Merit Badge Class to make Baklava at the Scout Building - 2020

it. He explained that nothing was ever final. Scouting was a 'process', not a 'static event'. He said he was always planning a year or two ahead; recruiting, training and giving Scouts an opportunity to lead. Then rewarding the Scouts with an Eagle if the Scouts were faithful in their learning and successful in leading.

AQ: Do you feel that there are striking similarities between Scouting and your professional experiences?

Alex: I work in a courthouse and work with adults who have lost custody of their children because of bad practices. The method is pretty much the same; achieve goals in learning life skills, demonstrate what has been learned, and maintain the goals. As Lord Baden-Powell used to say, we as Scout Leaders and the Scouting program do not teach how to earn a living, but how to live. Those lessons transfer well from the outdoor environment to everyday life. It was significant and helpful enough for me to earn my Wood Badge. I was not a Boy Scout in my youth, but I find Scouting very helpful as an adult.

I would encourage Alumni of the Troop to stay active in Scouting and the Troop as best they can. Every person is different, and there is no catch all job or training for everyone. Each person is different. Use your unique skills and knowledge to help Scouting, and the Troop.



Dan Wilkerson, Andy McCracken, Alex Savakis - Spaghetti Dinner

Alumni in the News

Here are some stories that feature Troop Alumni



Troop 101 Alumnus Ned Gold receives National BSA recognition in landing the Norman Rockwell Scout collection for the Howland Medici Museum:

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/12/18/you-can-see-all-65-norman-rockwell-scouting-paintings-at-this-museum-in-ohio/>

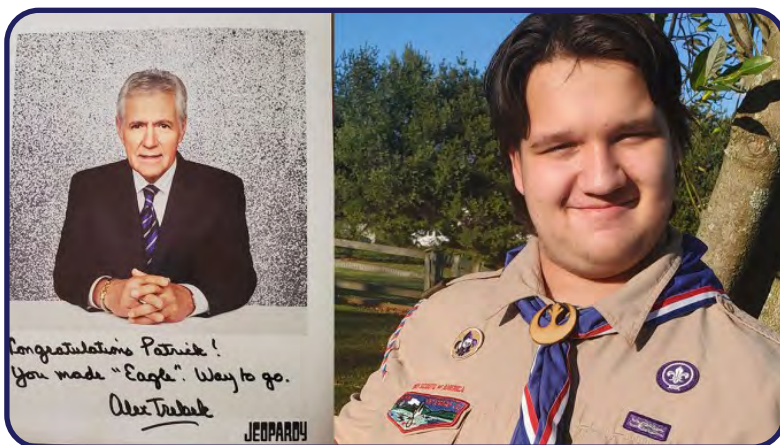


Troop 101 Eagle Scout Max Hoover's Cockeye Creamery wins two national honors:

<https://www.tribtoday.com/news/local-news/2020/12/cockeye-creamery-wins-two-national-honors/>

Just Before He Died, Alex Trebek Sent Congratulations to New Eagle Scout

By Bryan Wendell - Scouting Magazine



Wendy Ingham knows how much her son loves *Jeopardy!*

The only time son Patrick misses an episode is on nights when Troop 18 of West Grove, Pa. (Chester County Council), has a meeting.

Patrick is a Geography Bee champion, history buff and, in fourth grade, was voted by his classmates as “Most Likely to Compete on *Jeopardy!* and Win.”

Shortly after Patrick’s Eagle Scout board of review on July 9, 2020, Wendy sent letters to several people who are important to Patrick asking if they would send a congratulatory note.

One of those letters went to Alex Trebek, host of Patrick’s favorite show. Wendy says she followed the advice on Scouting.com when writing the letter, which she sent to Trebek at the California studio where *Jeopardy!* is filmed.

“I followed exactly what you said to do,” she says. “I gave lots of details about Patrick, his project and his time in Scouting. I wrote about how much Mr. Trebek has been someone Patrick admired for many years. I also included a self-addressed stamped envelope, just in case.”

On Nov. 21, 13 days after [Trebek’s death](#) from pancreatic cancer, Wendy received a letter postmarked from Los Angeles. Inside was an 8-by-10 photo of Trebek and a handwritten note of congratulations from the *Jeopardy!* host himself: “Congratulations

Patrick!” Trebek wrote. “You made ‘Eagle.’ Way to go.”

Given the timing of Wendy’s initial request in July and the receipt of the reply from Trebek in November, we know that Trebek wrote the note in the last months of his life.

“To think that Mr. Trebek took the time to sign this photo acknowledging Patrick’s accomplishment shortly before his passing, shows Patrick what an incredible, thoughtful and caring person Alex Trebek was,” Wendy says. “This will be a treasured keepsake for the rest of Patrick’s life.”

A Scouting life

Patrick, 15, started his Scouting journey as a 6-year-old Tiger. In the decade since, he has earned the Eagle Scout Award, worked at summer camp and become a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow, Scouting’s national honor society.

For his Eagle project Patrick and his helpers painted a U.S. map, two hopscotch courts and two four-square courts on a school recess yard.

“I chose this project to help share my enthusiasm for geography with the younger students at my school, who I hope will take the lessons that they learn from it and accomplish great things,” he says.

That passion for helping others explains why, this year, Patrick was elected senior patrol leader of his troop. He says that role — and his entire Scouting experience — have helped him grow in confidence.

“Outside of Scouting, I’m a very reserved person,” he says. “Scouting brings out a new kind of me where I’m unafraid to interact with others and take a role of leadership. The amount of opportunities Scouting has given me to go out, meet other people and make a positive difference in the world is astronomical. That’s something I will never let go of.”

What is admiration?

Most Scouts split their time across a number of interests and priorities. For Patrick, this means trivia — competing against other high schoolers as he tests his knowledge of literature, STEM, history, geography and more.

Trivia aficionados like Patrick inevitably dream of climbing the Mount Everest of trivia: *Jeopardy!* Patrick watched the show religiously, soon realizing that Trebek wasn't just a good host; he was a good human, too.

"He had a great breadth of knowledge and experience — but, more importantly, always had a cheerful, positive attitude and spirit," Patrick says. "He always spoke highly of the world around him. That's the kind of person I look up to with the utmost respect."

Wendy didn't tell Patrick that she had contacted

Trebek to ask for a congratulatory note. That's actually a best practice when parents request letters for their new Eagle Scouts: Why get their hopes up?

So, when Wendy presented the letter to her son, he was floored.

"Alex Trebek was a person who I looked up to with great admiration," Patrick says. "When I received the photograph and note, I was in awe that someone in such poor health was able to take their time to so graciously respond to what they felt was a very high achievement."

We're in awe of you, too, Patrick. To quote Alex Trebek himself: "Way to go."

National BSA's 'Churchill Plan' and What It Means for Scouting

'Optimizing the BSA for Success'



In 2019, the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the BSA asked six teams of volunteers and professionals from local, area, regional and national levels — including current or recent youth members and subject-matter experts — to develop plans on how to optimize the BSA for success

in key areas based on input provided by more than 1,100 local, area, region and national volunteers and professionals, including:

- Youth Safety: *How do we keep young people safe?*
- Program: *Are the BSA programs aligned with today's young people?*
- Communications and Marketing: *How can National Council improve communication with stakeholders?*
- Organizational Structure: *Do we have the most effective organizational structure?*
- National Council Effectiveness: *Are there changes that would make the National Council more effective?*
- Financial Health: *How do we build a solid financial path forward?*

Since the fall of 2019, these six groups convened to assess their designated areas and determine opportunities for growth and improvement in the future as we look to bring Scouting to youth of all backgrounds — regardless of race, faith, nationality, gender or economic circumstances. While the groups were encouraged to think broadly and considered various inputs from interviews and ongoing research, all efforts were anchored in ensuring the delivery of our proven programs in a safe manner grounded in the Scout Oath and Law.

In June 2020, the six groups presented the National Executive Committee (NEC) with proposed recommendations they believed would be needed to strengthen Scouting so that our next century is even stronger than our legacy.

What are the Next Steps for the Churchill Proposed Recommendations?

In the next phase of this effort, the National Executive Committee has asked the National Management Team to facilitate the evaluation of the proposed recommendations (noted below) and, as appropriate, develop corresponding action

plans that would be executed should the NEC decide to move forward with the respective recommendations. It is important to underscore that the proposals of the six Churchill study groups remain recommendations, are now under review by the National Management Team and appropriate committees and have not yet been approved by the NEC.

After their deliberation, the Management Team and the appropriate committees will recommend to the NEC whether the individual proposed recommendations should be adopted, amended, delayed, or declined given interests of the organization.

While recommendations have not yet been adopted or finalized at press time, the NEC met this past fall to review and weigh these recommendations with the corresponding proposed action plans to decide how to move forward, including deciding whether to accept the recommendation, how to implement, and against what timeframe.

The Importance of Embracing Change

Meaningful change is rarely easy. However, it is a process that is necessary to grow and succeed, which is a shared goal we all have for Scouting, whether you are a Scout, a volunteer, a professional, a parent, or a donor. Our commitment to the mission of Scouting will continue to guide this effort, and that commitment will also be crucial in guiding the bold steps needed to ensure future generations can benefit from Scouting even more than those that trekked before them.

The 26 Proposed RECOMMENDATIONS Being Considered:

- Reinvigorate the on-boarding program for new Scout families and members, with a continuing key focus on “Safe Scouting” and “Keeping Young People Safe.”
- Streamline all Safe Scouting Resources and consolidate in one location.
- Instill a culture of timely reporting, sharing, enforcement and transparency of safety incidents.
- Provide tools/resources for councils to deliver Youth Protection/Safety Seminars.
- Hire a youth adolescence expert on the national level to guide program development.
 - Combine Sea Scouting into Exploring as an aquatic focused career path.

- Sunset Learning for Life in-school program/curriculum.
- Evaluate program methods and age parameters to provide an engaging option that enables youth members to transition to adult leadership roles and remain active in Scouting with an ongoing commitment to safety.
- Establish a volunteer corps for young adults ages 18-29.
- Streamline the unit rechartering process.
- Prioritize National BSA strategic communications and marketing and make additional investments in related efforts.
- Establish a national Chief Communications and Marketing Officer.
- Update and enforce BSA's national brand standards.
- Consolidate local and national websites into a single unified web platform.
- Leverage High Adventure bases in overall marketing communications strategy.
- Combine National Annual Business and the Top Hands meetings.
- Establish minimum standards to be considered a council.
- National should focus on providing councils with support pertaining to program standards, legal, insurance, IT, brand/PR management, HR, and asset management.
- Replace Areas and Regions with one streamlined organization support structure that is focused on council sustainability and effectiveness.
- Establish a fee-based structure for councils in place of BSA National collecting membership fees.
- Create a membership executive position within councils focused on growth and paid on performance.
- Greater council flexibility in operating within brand standards.
- Create a membership category for youth and families with no advancement programs.
- Greater reliance on volunteers to offset national staff reductions.
- Rotate national volunteers back to local councils or new intermediate organization.
- Transition to digital merit badge resources.

The outcome of the recommendations and actions should be made public in the first quarter of the New Year.

Girl Scouts vs. Boy Scouts in Escalating Recruitment War

Reported by the Associated Press - December 27, 2020

NEW YORK (AP) — The Girl Scouts are in a “highly damaging” recruitment war with the Boy Scouts after the latter opened its core services to girls, leading to marketplace confusion and some girls unwittingly joining the Boy Scouts, lawyers for the century-old Girl Scouts organization claim in papers filed in a federal court.

The competition, more conjecture than reality two years ago, has intensified as the Boy Scouts of America organization — which insists recruits pledge to be “trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous and kind” — has unfairly recruited girls lately, according to claims in legal briefs filed on behalf of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

The lawyers filed papers in Manhattan federal court Thursday to repel an effort by the Boy Scouts to toss out before trial a trademark infringement lawsuit the Girl Scouts filed in 2018.

Last month, lawyers for the Boy Scouts asked a judge to reject claims that the Boy Scouts cannot use “scouts” and “scouting” in its recruitment of girls without infringing trademarks.

It called the lawsuit “utterly meritless.”

Messages seeking comment on the latest filing by Girl Scouts were sent Saturday to lawyers for the Boy Scouts.

In its filing, the Girl Scouts said the Boy Scouts’ marketing of expanded services for girls was “extraordinary and highly damaging to Girl Scouts” and had set off an “explosion of confusion.”

“As a result of Boy Scouts’ infringement, parents have mistakenly enrolled their daughters in Boy Scouts thinking it was Girl Scouts,” the lawyers said, adding that this never occurred before 2018.

The Girl Scouts said they can prove there are “rampant instances of confusion and mistaken instances of association between Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts” after the Boy Scouts targeted girls and their parents with marketing and recruiting communications in ways it never has before.

“The parties’ programs, which have many similarities, are now directly competitive,” the Girl Scouts maintained.

The organization cited proof from a narrow subset of documents turned over by 19 of 250 local Boy Scout councils, including evidence that registration fees sometimes were returned to parents who mistakenly thought they registered girls for the Girl Scouts.

It said repeated instances of confusion and interference at the local level by the Boy Scouts was a tiny fraction of what was occurring nationwide.

Each of dozens of times the Girl Scouts complained about unfair marketing, the Boy Scouts responded by blaming individuals, churches or others for what they said was an

isolated incident, the lawyers said.

“According to Boy Scouts, blame for the rampant marketplace confusion lies at everyone’s feet but its own,” they wrote.

Both the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, like other major youth organizations, have seen declines in membership in recent years as competition grew pre-pandemic from sports leagues and busy family schedules.

In spring 2018, the Boy Scouts program for 11- to 17-year-olds announced it would change its name to Scouts BSA in early 2019. The parent organization, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Cub Scouts, a program serving children from kindergarten through fifth grade, kept their names.

The organization started admitting girls into the Cub Scouts in August 2018, and Scouts BSA began accepting girls in February, 2019, lawyers said.

Afterward, Boy Scouts councils and volunteers began using Girl Scouts’ intellectual property to recruit girls, employing targeted advertising utilizing terms such as “Scout, Scouts, Scouting, Scout Me In and Scouts BSA,” the lawyers wrote.

“Boy Scouts knew full well in 2017, just as it had in the 1930s and 1970s, that SCOUT, SCOUTS and SCOUTING, when used in connection with girls’ services, could only create associations with Girl Scouts unless other distinguishing content referencing Boy Scouts of America appeared in advertising and promotional materials,” they said. “But it did so anyway, and the only plausible inference is that its motive was to free ride off of Girl Scouts’ ‘impeccable’ reputation and boost its position in a ‘new market — Girls in Scouting.’”

The lawyers said Boy Scouts councils in Illinois acknowledging improperly using the Girl Scouts’ slogan in Cub Scout recruiting materials and pictures of Girl Scouts to promote a Boy Scouts “Scouts Sign-Up Night!”

They said a western Massachusetts Boy Scouts council posted a recruiting flyer on Facebook including a photograph of a girl depicted in her Girl Scouts Brownie uniform.

Meanwhile, Ohio Boy Scouts used the Girl Scouts trademark to try to get a local newspaper to write an article, suggesting a storyline entitled “Boy and Girl Scouts Looking for Members” even though the recruitment involved only the Boy Scouts, the lawyers said.

In Seattle, a Boy Scouts council used the Girl Scouts trademark in social media recruiting materials, the lawyers said.

They said confusion has skyrocketed among children, parents, schools and religious organizations and they cited examples in other states, including Florida, Minnesota, Arkansas, Michigan, North Carolina and Hawaii.



101 ALUMNI QUARTERLY

January 2021 • ISSUE 45

Share Your Story!

We're always on the lookout for the next Alumni story to share with you, our readers. If you, or an Alumni you know is doing something interesting send us a quick email so we can feature that story in the Alumni Quarterly.

Just looking to share a memory, or a funny story? We'll take those too!
Just email us at newsletter@troop101.net

Recent Troop Activities

What has the Troop been up to recently

October 11, 2020

Morrison Run Backpacking Trip



The Troop returns from a backpacking trip to Morrison Run. The scouts left early Saturday, then hiked about 6 miles into camp. At camp they prepared trail meals, had a campfire, and enjoyed the beauty of nature.

Sunday morning, they backpacked out about 4 more miles to the waiting cars. Overall the weekend was a fun overnight with perfect weather.

October 21, 2020

Dedicating the Rockwell Exhibit



Scouts from all over the area showed up at the Butler Art Museum to cut a ribbon dedicating the Rockwell Exhibit.

October 26, 2020

Halloween Party



The Troop got together Monday night for some ghoulish fun. The Halloween party at the Scout building was a lot of fun, and for one night, the masks didn't seem as out of place. Prizes were awarded for Scariest, Funniest, and overall best costume.

November 14, 2019

Pioneer Day



Our boys were back outside this weekend during a special November Camp experience. Just a Saturday event at the Jim Potjunas Scout Center.

We lashed together a Monkey Bridge, ran a Orienteering Course, practiced knots and lashings, and had a special guest Mr. Ken Hall come in to teach about Char Cloth and fire starting. That was just the morning!



After lunch, they got to play with the Monkey Bridge, launch some pumpkins with our catapults, and First Aid challenges. They also got to test the skills lighting fires they learned in the morning.

November 11, 2020

Mercy Health Flag Ceremony

The Troop Honor Guard met to help with the VA Flag Ceremony.