Alumni Quarterly
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From the President

End of Summer

It's hard to believe we completed another exciting summer for scouting. With Family camp and both Summer Camp and "Caverns and Currents" behind us we are all very excited to begin the Fall season.

The Alumni have been busy assisting with the financing of these endeavors and I hope all of you may consider sponsoring a scout or 2 for the months ahead.

Looking forward, the Alumni association is beginning the planning stages for our holiday get together this November. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We'll again feature all of your Warren favorite foods. So, a "one stop shop" culinary experience for your short holiday visit.

Beyond that, 2025 brings another Philmont trip for the Troop. We'll keep you up to date as plans start coming together. I know the crews are planning a lot of backpacking this Fall. You're welcome to join them. They'll help remind you that you are old but feeling young when you are back on the trail.

Until then, enjoy your final days of warm weather and thank you for helping us keep the spirit of Scouting alive!

-Ken

From The Editor

It's been a few months. How do you like the new look?

Several deadlines were missed, and the Q3 Newsletter didn't go out this year, much like the Q1 issue. As mentioned in Q2, I'm in desperate need of help. I received a few emails saying "I'm reading"

First, what do you think of the new look? I hope you like it.

Well... it's time for another plea for help. Just like I mentioned in Q2's issue, I need helpers to submit some stories. I missed Q1, and I missed Q3 due to deadlines and lack of time trying to hunt down articles.

I need people to help gather articles. Without that, these newsletters will start becoming a lot smaller.

With that in mind, and after careful consideration, the newsletter will be transitioning to a Bi-Annual release. 2 newsletters a year seems more manageable with it just being one person trying to collect them all.

With that, the opportunity to engage. Show me that you're out there and send in some suggested names! Because the Alumni Bi-Annually just doesn't have the same ring as the Alumni Quarterly.

Lastly, if you would be interested in helping form a newsletter team, please reach out. If we gather enough stories we could grow back into a quarterly release. But we want the Newsletter to be something you look forward to reading. A way to keep in touch with the Troop and fellow Alumni.

With that, I hope you enjoy the remainder of this issue, and I hope to hear back from you at newsletter@troop101.net.

-Matt

Scoutmaster Corner

There's a lot of Scouting going on

Hello Scouts.

It has been several months since the last issue, but we are still going.

Sam W., one of our recent new Eagles finished up his term as SPL. Thank you, Sam. He is being succeeded by one of the Troop's youngest SPLs, Landon W. He's thirteen and doing a fine job his first couple of weeks.

Some of the adventures we have been on since the last issue are a couple of classics. Mr. Matt did some Troop historical research and found out we haven't been to this next place since the 1990's. In May we did return to Mohican State Park for some canoeing, and a nice hike around the surrounding area. This was a cool hike that led us up the stairs on the back side of the dam that held back the local lake. This is where the boys learned that gravity always wins once they started rolling back down the hill of the dam. A bit dirty and some scrapes here and there, the boys had a blast with some lasting memories. The campsites were nice and an all-girls Scout Troop invited our boys to a campfire for some songs and skits. They all had a good time.

For June we headed back to Pymatuning State Park for a waterlogged day of canoeing and swimming. At least for me. It was nice for me and my family as it was the summer before my oldest, Katie headed off to Ohio University and we got to spend some time with her. We had a great time at the beach for a ultimate frisbee game and short canoe ride back to a different campsite than we usually get for dinner and campfire. It was nice seeing so many families out with us.

July is one of our busy months for program. We started off with the Fourth of July Parade in Howland and did some recruiting and outreach with a mock campsite and Monkey Bridge that was attached to our Troop truck and giant oak tree. The scouts helped with safety on the bridge and passed out school supplies to local youth. Of course, days later, we headed to Manatoc for summer camp for the 101st year since the camp's opening. It was pretty special for all of us.

August, we got to go back to Laurel Highlands for some Whitewater Rafting. We did stop at the Flight 93 memorial on our way and let the scouts experience such a solemn place. I was extremely proud of our scouts with their attitudes, manners and the seriousness they showed while at the memorial. Great job young men.

We finished our August trip with two more stops at the Laurel Caverns where we crossed the "do not cross rope" and headed on a guided tour of crawling and slinking through areas I personally should not have gone. I am

a bigger man and some of those passages were not meant for me but I tried to do them anyway. It was awesome. The last stop was a quick adventure to Fort Necessity for a couple of hours of exploration and then we headed home for some rest.

You thought we were busy in July and August? September was filled with backpacking at Archer's Fork State Park in Wayne National Forest for the absolute rainiest campout I've ever been on. I thought the Kennedale trip a few years ago when my son Colin first joined was wet. This rain was biblical.

This was a Philmont prep trip and boy was it a trip for preparation. I have been camping and backpacking for 37 years and even I learned a few things on this trip. I am way more experienced because of this difficult but

awesome trip.

Later, some of the Troop camped at the Trumbull County Fairground for the Family and Fun Halloween Weekend and experienced the Demolition Derby, food, Fireworks and games provided by the Troop for the public to try and have fun with. This was a recruiting weekend and hopefully out of the over 600 folks that crossed, one of the finest Monkey Bridge we have ever built, we'll see some new scouts in our future. Good job to our adult leaders that attended and kept things moving forward.

But wait, there's more. We did finish off September with our regular campout to another classic, Camp Bucoco in Slippery Rock Pennsylvania and thanks to one of our Assistant Scoutmasters, Jeff Wagner, we spent the day rappelling off 55-foot cliffs at McConnell's Mills State Park near Butler. We haven't been to McConnell's Mills State Park in many years and I'm glad the scouts got to see a new place.

So, as we prepare to go backpacking again at Morrison Run, near Warren Pennsylvania, I'll put on my hiking boots and get ready to hit the trail in October.

As always, if you are in town and want to stop by and see us, we'll be there Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

-Jason

Farewell to the Eureka Tents

It seems like only a few years ago they were discontinuing the Voyager tents. I must admit, there's still a part of me that misses those heavy canvas tents of my youth.

Earlier this year, Johnson Outdoors, the parent company of Eureka, announced they would be discontinuing tent production at the end of 2024.

When the Voyagers were discontinued back in 2009, the Troop began looking for a replacement we could standardize. Of the 3 tents we looked at, we decided to go with the Eureka Timberline Outfitter 4-man tent. It was a solid choice, and was a tried-and-true tested tent that had been around for years. Immediately after selecting the tent, it was discontinued by Eureka and replaced by the Timberline Outfitter SQ 4-man tent. For a slight increase in price, and a fancier pole design, we decided to go with the new SQ.

Overall, they've been a solid tent. We went from replacing 4 tents a year with the Voyagers, to replacing 4 tents over the last 14 years. The most common failure point on the new tents, the rain fly that often gets torn through the normal wear and tear of being handled by excited youth. Sadly, we won't be able to order any more replacements, and in the coming years, a new tent will be needed across the board.

In the next year or two, we'll be selecting the 4-man tent that will replace the current timberline series. I just hope they'll look as awesome set up in a row as these ones do. Have a suggestion for us, let us know at info@troop101.net.

Restarting Crew 101

Join us for another adventure

In the late 90's, the Boy Scouts of America, now Scouting America, reorganized the Exploring program. It became two programs, with one focusing on an outdoor-oriented activity structure, and the other taking on more career-oriented posts. Several adults took an interest in the venturing program, kicking off meetings in the fall of 2000 to discuss the potential of forming a crew. The success of the recently formed Pack 101 had us wanting more.

In September, the crew would officially start operation. The Crew Advisor was Alan Copp, and Crew President was Josh France. Soon Crew 101 would be in full swing participate in Climbing days at Kendall Cliffs, Ice Skating at Mill Creek Park, Overnight outings at Camp Chickagami, Whitewater trips, Ski Trips, Biking, Backpacking, Rappelling, and more.

In 2005, adult participation in Crew activities waned, and the crew was forced to suspend activities.

Recently, there has been a lot more interest in restarting Crew 101. There have even been a few that joined Camp Staff at Manatoc, dawning the Venturing green uniform, and becoming a part of Crew 2300. Among this group is Eagle Scout Christopher McMahan. In our last issue, we let everyone know of his completion of the Summit Rank, the highest award in Venturing.

At a recent court of honor, talks of the program and both it's merits and awards brought another wave of interest in getting the crew running. With that in mind, the group will soon be filing the paperwork to charter the crew in December, alongside the Troop charter, and will begin operations soon. Mr. Matt McCracken will be stepping into the Committee Chairman role, while Mr. Harley Hoff V is stepping into the Advisor role. We already have several other interested adult leaders planning to support the crew, and about 9 young men and 2 young women interested in being the first Venturers.

With the restart of the crew, we hope to engage some of the recent 18 to 20-year-old scouts from the Troop that want to keep participating. Things are moving fast, and in the next issue we hope to announce how things are going with the new Crew.

Advisor Summit

Welcoming Crew 101 Advisor - Harley Hoff

Greetings everyone!

Over the past year, several adults and I have been planning and discussing the basis of what we deemed Project Summit. Named after the highest award in the program, this project was founded to restart Venture Crew 101, the high adventure arm of Scouting America.

This project was started as a way to provide a few things to local youth in the greater Warren area:

1: Provide further avenues to grow skills in leadership, project planning, event planning, and budgeting.

2: Provide further avenues for youth to explore more exciting high adventure trips not traditionally possible or feasible with a scout troop.

3: Provide a way for young scouter college reserve & troop alums to stay involved with, arguably, one of the most exciting parts of scouting and build a bridge to retention during the transition from scout to adult.

With this, the question arises: how can Venturing provide for these differently than a traditional scouting unit? Let's take a look:

Provide further avenues to grow skills in leadership, project planning, event planning, and budgeting.

Venturing takes the idea of youth leadership to the next level. In a traditional scout troop, the portions of event planning are usually split 50/50 between youth and adults. Youth might handle ideas for events, potential locations, theming, and programming, while adults will work on the trip or event's budgeting, logistics, travel, and overall feasibility.

In Venturing, the split is much closer to 95/5 on the youth side. Venturers will meet regularly to discuss trips they want to take. In these discussions, the youth will pick the location, study the logistics and travel to/from, budget for food and supplies, plan money-earning projects if necessary, and make most of the prep work needed for a trip. On the adult side, we generally take the back seat to events, allowing the youth to plan the event as they see fit. As adults, we will act as advisors to provide guidance where necessary and as the hard stop for safety concerns.

Provide further avenues for youth to explore more exciting high adventure trips not traditionally possible or feasible with a scout troop.

In Venturing, the sky truly is the limit. The structure of venturing counts on the crew remaining semi-small in size, allowing for more advanced trips and activities that would traditionally be impossible due to larger troop sizes.

The minimum age for Venturing is 14 and runs until the youth reaches 21. This age range allows for more focus on higher-tier adventures, which is not usually possible due to the younger scouts in a traditional unit.

Provide a way for young scouter college reserve & troop alums to stay involved with, arguably, one of the most exciting parts of scouting, and build a bridge to retention during the transition from scout to adult.

High adventure has always been the peak of scouting, whether it be a canoe trip through Algonquin, skiing in Alaska, backpacking at Philmont, diving at Sea Base, or repelling off ravine cliffs. The Venture program will provide an avenue for more advanced treks through hundreds of different adventures taking place throughout the year, allowing for youth in college to have a

higher likelihood of being able to attend as opposed to regular weekend campouts. Keeping Venturers involved through this period increases the likelihood the youth will continue as adults in the Scouting program, whether in a troop or crew.

While a sister unit to Troop 101, Crew 101 will operate independently, including finances, meeting intervals, structure, events, leadership roles, and more. Crew 101 will be able to supplement the already great program offered by Troop 101 and also help bring more youth in the surrounding area to experience what scouting has to offer.

Over the next few months, other adults and I will sign on as our initial leadership core, finalizing the paperwork and other necessary preparations. If you are interested in helping to provide assistance or know an outgoing youth in the Warren area who would be interested in joining, please feel free to reach out!

I look forward to helping start this new avenue for the 101 family and providing even more opportunities for our youth.

State of the Troop

COVID took its toll on Scouting. Especially in the Cub Scouting program. Many experts believe it will be at least 8-10 more years until scouting can get back to where we were as an organization.

Fortunately, despite the struggles, Troop 101 has managed to keep moving through these difficult times. We did experience a decrease in membership due to COVID, but have been steadily increasing over the last two years. Currently the troop has 40 young men registered. With two of them turning 18, that puts us at 38 going into 2025. That's great considering the average unit when last I checked was between 6 and 15 members.

Scouting as a whole has been struggling. After school activities have become more demanding, and it's harder to get them away from the video games and television shows than it was 20-30 years ago. By continuing to offer the best program we can, we will continue to be one of the best programs we can be.

Recently, many of our readers have probably read that the Youngstown Diocese is banning scouting activities on church properties. The current Bishop issued an internal memo that was then shared to local news outlets, and WKBN reported on that in September, (that can be read here).

In Short, Bishop David Bonnar said Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Brownies will no longer meet or hold activities, including recruiting events on Diocese of Youngstown premises.

Within hours of the article hitting WKBN, e-mails were sent to leadership in the Troop and Alumni, asking what's going on. And, the answer remains the same.

Troop 101 is not at risk of loosing our home. The building our Alumni came together to build for Jim Potjunas, and to continue the scouting program he dedicated his life to will continue fulfilling that role. We will meet and continue as normal in the Scout Center year-round.

TThe alumni association is diligently working with the diocese to gain ownership of the building, with which the diocese is favoring as well. The details are still being worked out, but in the meantime, we are meeting regularly at the building and have now made the building our year-round meeting site.

It is possible the Troop will need to insulate the garage for a larger meeting space. It is also possible the Diocese will come to an arrangement with the Alumni Association. Be sure to keep an eye out on our Facebook page, or for an email should the need arise.

For now, we will keep doing what we do best. Offering the safest, and most fun program we can offer.

50th Reunion Celebration!

There's a lot of Scouting going on

It's time to mark your calendar, the Troop is turning 50!

After compiling all the surveys and feedback from the Q2 issue, the Alumni Board has voted to select the Labor Day weekend 2025 for the Reunion. While we're working on details for the event, the main reason for choosing Labor Day weekend is to allow travel time for those that will travel into town for the event.

So, plan on the main event being Sunday, August 31, 2025. On Saturday the 30th, we may also offer an additional meet and greet at the Scout Building behind Blessed Sacrament.

The Chairman for the reunion is Mr. Matt McCracken, Eagle Scout #93. I look forward to helping make this an event worthy of the Troop 101 family.

Right now, we are looking at a baking contest around noon, a banquet style dinner, and various games and activities – such as a climbing wall, cornhole, and an evening campfire program. Get a few of your friends together and join us in your favorite song or skit!

Cost and location will be revealed in the next issue, but we wanted to let everyone know the date so we can be sure to see you there.

In preparation of the Troop turning 50, there are 3 memorabilia projects in the works.

First, we are putting together a 4-piece patch collection. This "Adventure for every Season" set features the five scoutmasters across 4 patches. These will be offered individually at $5 a patch, or in a collector framed set for $50. The framed sets will be numbered, if we only have 101 ordered, there will only be 101 in existence.

Second, I commissioned a portrait of the 5 scoutmasters. We are offering this in a framed print 12x12 for $35. The frame is matched to the patch set, so you can proudly display both. I think the artist did an excellent job capturing Mr. Brown, Mr. Mansell, Mr. Potjunas, Dr. LaPolla, and Mr. Paisley. I hope you like it as well.

Lastly, we are working on a coffee table book that will feature a complete history of the Troop and its activities to this point. The hope is that this book will be a collection of your stories as well as the general history of the Troop. So please, send us your favorite scouting memory, or what Scouting has meant to you so we can include it in the book. A Copy of this book will be kept with the Troop Scrapbooks to help preserve the history.

Pre-Order at store.troop101.net

Funding the Adventure

Annual Popcorn Fundraiser and more

Troop 101 strives to make Scouting affordable. To do that, we run 2 fundraisers every year. In the spring, we have our annual spaghetti dinner on Palm Sunday. In the Fall it's the Popcorn fundraiser.

Scouts will be turning in their popcorn forms on October 21st, but the online sales will continue for a week or two after that at prpopcornstore.com.

Back in the day, it was all about Trails End popcorn. But the Great Trail Council actually gets popcorn from Pecatonica River. This year, one of my favorite new flavors is the Maple Pecan. It's delicious.

If you're in the area, or would like a scout to reach out to you, please send us a quick email to info@troop101.net. If you'd prefer to have some shipped, head over to prpopcornstore.com. The selection isn't as large, but you can still support Troop 101 with the seller code: L2QDOR.

Looking for other ways to donate? We have a limited supply of Texas Roadhouse Peanuts for $5 that come with a coupon for a free appetizer. The deal is only valid at the Niles location, but is an excellent savings for you, and helps support the Scouts of Troop 101.

There is a button on the website if you'd prefer to make a monetary donation, but for larger donations I would suggest reaching out directly to discuss a check or transfer. PayPal takes a cut of every transaction, and we'd love to see more of your support go directly to the youth.

Where does the money go?

Some money gets channeled into paying the bills for the water, electric, etc. at the Scout Building. The rest goes to scouts that need financial support, as well as offsetting the rising costs of groceries and gas for camping trips.

Currently the Troop still offers our program at $15 a trip. Even that can be a lot for a family, when the actual trip can sometimes cost $20 or $30 a person. Your support in our fundraisers and through donations goes a long way to keeping Scouting affordable for these young men. And if you haven't heard it enough, Thank you, Thank you, Thank you – for your continued support.

Farewell to the Collection

Over the last 4 years, the Medici in Warren has hosted the Boy Scouts of America Rockwell collection.

Since opening in 2020, visitors from all 50 states, and several countries, have made the journey to Warren to see the 65-piece collection together, and proudly on display. It is the largest collection of Rockwell paintings outside the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

"Every time I go into the museum, I see the Rockwell collection, and it's a reminder of my scouting history," Gold said. "He began painting the scout paintings right before I got into Scouts. In a way, it's a painted history of what I've seen during my scouting history, which will be 75 years on Sept. 1."

Sadly, the art collection was one of the assets the Boy Scouts of America was ordered to liquidate in order to compensate more than 64,000 former Scouts who have filed claims as abuse survivors.

We can all thank Ned Gold for the collection being here, so close to home. A member of the Medici Museum board, he was instrumental in getting the collection on display.

Thank you, Ned. And Congratulations on 75 years!

Congratulations Greg

Greg Gold, Eagle #31 Named Super Lawyer

One of the greatest things we get to do as an organization is recognize the accomplishments of others. Often, it's an Eagle Scout, or a Scouting award. But our Alumni are out there doing great things.

Earlier this year, Greg Gold, Eagle #31, was named as a Colorado Super Lawyer, and has achieved this distinction over the past several years. A "Super Lawyer" is a lawyer who is recognized by the Super Lawyer rating service as one of the top-rated attorneys in the country. The selection process is a patented process involving Peer Nomination, Independent research, Peer evaluation, and more.

Only about 5% of lawyers in each state are named Super Lawyers, and Greg has the distinction and privilege of being named a Super Lawyer since 2012. He was even selected as one of the top 100 Colorado Super Lawyers in 2018.

His profile on the Super Lawyers website states: Mr. Gold has received professional recognition from the legal community. He was honored as the Young Trial Lawyer of the Year by the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association. He and his clients have also been featured in the national spotlight on "Good Morning America" and in "Lawyers Weekly USA." Denver media forms have also recognized Mr. Gold in his professional capacity by showcasing him in The Denver Post and the Westword. He stays committed to maintaining a professional reputation by frequently lecturing at multiple Colorado Bar Association functions and seminars for the National Business Institute and legal associations. He has lectured across the state regarding insurance bad faith claims as well as in other arenas regarding his personal injury practice.

The Troop 101 Alumni association congratulates Greg. Well done!

An Eye for Philmont

In the spring edition of the newsletter, we let everyone know of the upcoming Philmont expedition in 2025. With one prep trip under our belt, the number going has dropped slightly from 24 to 21.

It was a wet trip of ups and downs with Archer's fork and a 14-mile loop with over 2,000 feet in elevation gain. It certainly tested our gear, and found it wanting. The Trail tents didn't hold out the water nearly as well as we wanted. Overall, there were many tired and exhausted faces by the end of the overnight. But looking back, it was a beautiful trail.

The hope is we will be back in the spring for another round. A final test to our preparations for Philmont.

We're still waiting for the 2025 treks to be announced so the crews can plan our route. Stay tuned for more in the spring edition.

Share Your Story

We want to know what you're doing now

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? With the Troop 50th coming up, we want to know your favorite scouting memory.

Just email us at:
newsletter@troop101.net

Thank you for making the Troop great, and for sharing the great stories you have to gell.

Alumni Board

Ken LaPolla	President
Jason Paisley	Scoutmaster
Charles James	Committee Chair
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Matt McCracken	Web & Newsletter
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Jeff Faulk	Director at Large
Chris Stringham	Director at Large

The 101 Club

The 101 Club is an all-new way to help. As always, being an Alumni member is free, and entitles you access to awesome things like the Newsletter and the Troop website.

Being part of the 101 Club is a way to become more involved and help with the growing costs of supporting the Troop 101 Scouting program. This includes maintaining and insuring the Troop equipment, helping families in need, and more!

To show you're a member of the 101 Club, everyone that joins will receive a special patch to commemorate their membership! We will also feature your name in the Alumni Newsletter as a club member, and supporter of what we do.

Scan the QR Code to join today! All donations of at least $101 qualify.

2024 Club Members

Calhoun, Jason
Dobos, Scott
Hillman, Gregg
Hoff, Harley
Hoover, Max
Koncki, Jeff
Sabat, Joseph
Thompson, Janet

Upcoming Troop Events & Activities

October
- 19-20 - Morrison Run Backpacking
- 28 - Halloween Party

November
- 8-10 - Seven Ranges
- 30 - Alumni Holiday Gathering

December
- 14 -OA Winter Banquet
- 15 - Holiday Party

January
- 17-19 - January Campout

February
- 7-9 - Winter Klondike

March
- 7-9 - March Campout

April
- 25-27 - Butler Bike Trip

May
- 16-18 - Raccoon Creek