



Black Warrior Council, BSA Newsletter

December 2024

Important Dates & Events

December 2	Popcorn \$ Due
December 3	Giving Tuesday
December 6-8	River District Webelos Woods Mountain District Winter Camporee
December 12	River District Committee Meeting, 5:30 River District Roundtable, 6:30 Mountain District Committee Meeting, 6:00 Mountain District Roundtable
December 23-27	OFFICE CLOSED for Holidays
December 25	Christmas
December 27-29	Winter Camp
January 1	Happy New Year! - OFFICE CLOSED
January 4	OA Indian Winter Work Day at Camp Horne
January 9	River District Committee Meeting, 5:30 River District Roundtable, 6:30 Mountain District Committee Meeting, 6:00 Mountain District Roundtable
January 10-12	OA Indian Winter
January 18-20	National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT), Weekend #1
January 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
January 20	Inauguration Day
January 25	Merit Badge College - Shelton State Community College



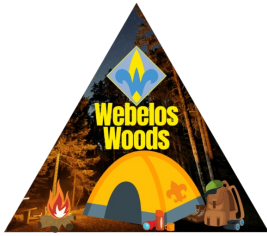
Happy Holidays

On behalf of the Executive Board and professional staff of the Black Warrior Council, we want to thank every volunteer, parent, and community member for the wonderful year we have had in 2024. Scouting works because of the dedication of time and resources provided by so many.

"One hundred years from now it will not matter

*the size of my bank account, the kind of car that I drove,
or the sort of house I lived in, but the world may be different
because I was important in the life of a child!"*

Upcoming Events



Webelos Woods is an overnight experience for Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts and a parent or guardian. The Scouts will have the opportunity to experience a 'Day in the Life' of Scout BSA Summer Camp. This is an opportunity to camp out with your Scout and enjoy the beauty of Camp Horne.

Your Scout will have the opportunity to earn an activity badge, experience the multitude of activities that would be available to them at Summer Camp, enjoy an awesome campfire, enjoy a movie, and cook their own meals.

To learn all about this fantastic opportunity, click [here!](#)



We want to invite you to join us for this year's Scouting Winter Camp at Camp Horne! Though we offer merit badge programming, like that of summer camp, Scouts can work on up to 2 merit badges. Winter Camp stresses fun through the open program activities. These activities allow Scouts to enjoy utilizing some of the skills they have learned already in scouting. Come take the Polar Plunge, Brave the Elements, and Enjoy a WONDERFUL time with other Scouts! Don't miss the food, fun, and Adventure at Camp Horne this WINTER!

For more information and to register, click [here!](#)

National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) to be Offered January/February 2025

NYLT is essential training for developing a youth-led troop and a premier leadership program. We are pleased to announce that the Black Warrior Council will be offering this exceptional experience over two weekends early next year. Scouts BSA members (male and female) must be at least 13. They must have completed Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops and earned the First Class rank before attending NYLT.

First Week-End: **January 18-20, 2025**

(8:30am on Saturday until 4:00 pm on Sunday)

Second Week-End: **February 15-17, 2025**

(8:30am on Saturday until 4:00 pm on Sunday)

* Scouts must be present for the entire session.

John Godwin, Scoutmaster of Troop 151, will serve as the NYLT Scoutmaster/Course Director.

Adults! Have You Completed Wood Badge and Interested in Serving on the NYLT Staff?

Please contact John Godwin (jvgodwinjr@gmail.com).



[Informational Flyer](#)

[Youth Online Application](#)

-OR-

[Youth Paper Application](#)

December 3rd

Every day there is ample evidence of the difference Scouting is making in the lives of our youth. These accomplishments are due to the extraordinary investment of time and resources by so many.



GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of radical generosity. GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea: a day that encourages people to do good. Since then, it has grown into a year-round global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

As you consider participating, we hope that you will consider continuing your support of Scouting locally. If you would like to make any level of contribution to advance Scouting in the West Alabama area, please use the button to the right. Please help spread the opportunity by sharing this information to others. Thank you!



SAVE THE DATES!

Information will be coming soon about the following events. Save the dates as your unit makes programming plans.

OA Indian Winter to be held January 10-12, 2025

Merit Badge College to be held Saturday, January 25, 2025

Leadership Development Weekend to be held January 31-February 2, 2025

OA Annual Banquet to be held February 22nd, 11:30-2:30 at Camp Horne

Path to Eagle! Resource Available

In response to questions from Scouts, parents, and leaders, a "Path to Eagle!" webpage has been added to the council website. The purpose of this resource is to provide guidance, answer questions, and clarify the steps an aspiring Eagle Scout needs to take in pursuit of attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

All information is based upon the BSA's "Guide to Advancement" and procedures adopted by the Black Warrior Council Executive Board in May of 2024. While local units have some flexibility, any local procedures may not be in conflict with those of the local Council or National guidelines.

To visit this page, click [here](#)!



ScoutingU Releases Required Range Activity SAFETY Online Training for Unit Leaders

In collaboration with the National Range & Target Activities Subcommittee, ScoutingU has launched the new "Range Activity SAFETY" online training, which is now also accessible on mobile devices. The primary goal of Scouting America's range and target activities is first and foremost centered around teaching safety. This new Range Activity SAFETY online training equips adult leaders with the knowledge to help support SAFE range and target activities at the unit level for Scouts BSA troops, Venturing crews, and Sea Scout ships. **It's important to note that Cub Scout packs are not permitted to lead unit-level range and target activities.** This training is not required for district or council led range and target activities. This training is also not a replacement for certified instructors who must be present to operate the ranges. To access the updated training, log onto my.Scouting.org and search the catalog in the BSA Learn Center for

“Range Activity SAFETY.” For additional information regarding Scouting’s Range and Target Activities, please refer to the Guide to Safe Scouting and the National Range and Target Activities Manual.

FAQs

Q. Who must take Range Activity SAFETY online training?

A. At a minimum, all Scouts BSA troops, Venturing crews, and Sea Scout ships who provide unit-level sponsored/planned range and target activities must have at least one registered unit leader 21+ years of age take the Range Activity SAFETY online training at my.Scouting. This individual must be present at the range during the activity. This training is not required for district or council led range and target activities.

Q. Does Range Activity SAFETY online training have to be renewed?

A. Yes, each unit must have at least one adult 21+ years of age present at the activity who has taken the training within the previous two years.

Q. Is Range Activity SAFETY training available to take in person?

A. No, Range Activity SAFETY training is only available online. It is also mobile compatible.

District News

River District (Tuscaloosa, Bibb, and Pickens Counties)

District Director: Roland Lewis [email](#)

- Our District Meeting will be held at the Leroy McAbee Scout Service Center on Thursday, November 14th beginning at 5:30. Our Scouts BSA Roundtable will follow at 6:30.
- There is an exciting district event coming soon. Be sure to plan to participate in the Cub-O-Ree to be held November 1-3rd.

Mountain District (Walker, Marion, Winston, Lamar, and Marion Counties)

District Executive: Darren Hix [email](#)

- Our District Meeting will be held in the Drummond Building on Thursday, November 14th beginning at 6:00. Our leaders' Roundtable will follow.
- A fall Mountain District Camporee will be held December 6-8 at Camp O'Rear!

Mountain District Update: Celebrating Success & Looking Ahead

Our recent **CubORee** on **November 1-2** was a fantastic success, thanks to the dedication and energy of our amazing Cub leaders! The event was filled with fun, learning, and camaraderie, making lasting memories for all who attended. A special shout-out goes to **Scott Duncan**, Scoutmaster of **Troop 79**, for his invaluable assistance in preparing **Camp O'Rear** for the event. Scott's commitment to our Scouts ensured everything ran smoothly—thank you!

Now, let's keep the momentum going! We're excited to invite all Scout troops to our **Fall CampORee** on **December 6-8** at beautiful **Camp O'Rear**. It's an excellent opportunity for Scouts to showcase their skills, enjoy the outdoors, and strengthen our community. Mark your calendars and get ready for another memorable weekend!

Lastly, don't forget our **District Leaders Awards Banquet** on **Thursday, March 13th**, at **6:30 p.m.** at the **Fayette Scout Hut**. This event will honor the hard work and dedication of our leaders, and we encourage everyone to attend and show their support.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Scouting. Together, we make a difference!

Prairie District (Marengo, Hale, Greene, and Sumter Counties)

District Program Specialist: Greg Whitis [email](#)



The Black Warrior Council will conduct our next **Wood Badge** course in 2026 under the leadership of Charlie Plasters as the Course Director/Scoutmaster. The course will be held at Camp Horne on February 20-22, 2026 and March 7-8, 2026.

One of our first priorities will be recruiting and confirming an excellent staff composed of Wood Badge trained and experienced leaders. Information about how to apply to serve on the Wood Badge staff will be sent out very soon.



2026 National Scout Jamboree Announced! Summit Bechtel Reserve, July 22-31, 2026

Scouting's flagship event is one-of-a-kind. It's a gathering of approximately 30,000 Scouts, leaders, and staff that showcases everything that is great about the BSA and its members. plans for the Black Warrior Council's local contingent are beginning. Information related to adult leadership and youth participation will be distributed soon!

Requirement Updates 2024

Merit Badge requirement updates from 2024 Scouts BSA Requirements (33216):

- | | |
|--|--|
| Automotive Maintenance (1c,d,e,f,g,h) (2a,b,c,d,e) (3c) (8a,e,f) | Insect Study (2) (4) (6a,b) (12) |
| Backpacking (11b) | Journalism (2a1) |
| Bird Study (2) (4) (7) (8c) (9d) (11) (12) | Law (1) (5) (11) |
| Camping (9c) | Mining in Society (8c) |
| Candlemaking (9) (4b) (7) (8) (9) | Nuclear Science (1a,b,c,d,e) (2b) (3a,b) (4,4c) (6a,b) |
| Chemistry (2a) (3) | Photography (1b) |
| Coin Collecting (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) | Plant Science (8 Option 1: Agronomy E5c) |
| Cooking (5a,b,c,d,e) | Programming (1a) |
| Digital Technology (1) | Radio (9a5) |
| Engineering (5) (6c) | Safety (1c) (2c,d,e) |
| Fire Safety (1c) (2) (4) (6b,c,d,g) (7a) (9a) (10a) (11) | Scouting Heritage (2b3,b4) (3) (4c) |
| First Aid (2) (4) (7) (8d) (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15) (16) | Skating (1b)(2) (Skateboarding Option), Ice Skating Option (2b1) (2d2), Roller Skating Option (2c1)(2d2) |
| Fly-Fishing (3b,c) (10) | Surveying (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) |
| Golf (1) (2) | Sustainability (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) |
| Indian Lore (2) (3) (4) (5) | Swimming (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) |

Be Sure **CURRENT** Merit Badge Requirements are Being Used

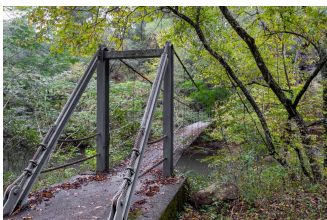
As merit badge counselors work with Scouts, please be sure that the **current** merit badge requirements are being followed. Use this [link](#) to the BSA National webpage that always maintains the most current version.

Link to ALL **CURRENT** Merit Badge Requirements offered by the BSA.

<https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/all/>

Need a Nice Facility for a Unit Gathering or Event? Need a Nice Facility for a Group Outside of Scouting?

The Black Warrior Council has several facilities that may be just what you need! Visit the Council [website](#) for guidelines, cost, and reservation information for each of our facilities.



Camp Horne
13633 Keenes Mill Road
Cottondale, AL 35453

Camp O'Rear
2180 Curry Highway
Jasper, AL 35501

White Bluff Scout Reservation
Located on Hwy 43, just north of
Demopolis



**Board Room
at the
Leroy McAbee Scout Service Center**
2700 Jack Warner Parkway NE
Tuscaloosa, AL 35404

**Eagle Plaza at the
Leroy McAbee Scout Service Center**
2700 Jack Warner Parkway NE
Tuscaloosa, AL 35404



Leroy McAbee Scout Service Center

2700 Jack Warner Parkway, N.E. Tuscaloosa, AL 35404
Office: (205) 554-1680 Fax: (205) 554-7830
Website: <https://www.bwc-bsa.org>

Services:

- Scout Shop
- Properties Management
- Membership & Unit Support
- Professional Office for Council Staff

Hours of Operation

Monday - Thursday, 8:30 - 5:00
Friday, 8:30-4:00



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