



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Scouting Matters

JUNE 2020

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Scouting @ Home Virtual Programs

The world may have slowed over the last few months, but Scouting has thrived by continuing to offer our program for all age groups virtually. We'd like to thank many of our local School District partners who shared our content so ALL youth, whether they are in Scouting or not, could participate.

Digital Den Meetings – Every Tuesday and Thursday volunteers have been working on the Cub Scout Adventures which teach family values, reinforce concepts learned in the classroom, and highlight cool hobbies and skills.

- First Grade Tigers – Good Knights, Rolling Tigers, Sky is the Limit, & Family Stories
- Second Grade Wolves – Adventures in Coins, Air of the Wolf, Germs Alive
- Third Grade Bears – Critter Care, Forensics, Paws for Action
- Fourth Grade Webelos – Build My Own Hero, YoYo, Fix It, Art Explosion



Virtual Merit Badges – Scouts need to earn a total of 21 merit badges in order to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. There are more than 135 merit badges that focus on hobbies and potential careers. All of the requirements and the pamphlet are developed by national experts in the field. Our Scouts were able to take the following online:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gardening• Fire Safety• American Cultures• Home Repairs | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cooking• Digital Technology• Scouting Heritage• Emergency Preparedness. |
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Scouting Knowledge Trivia – We offered families the chance to test their Scouting Knowledge on Monday nights.

Virtual Camporee – Check out page 3 for an article on our Council's Virtual Camporee!



#scoutingathome

Scouting Matters Now More Than Ever

As you will see throughout this edition of *Scouting Matters*, the Mississippi Valley Council has taken advantage of this "Churchill Moment" and altered our plans so we can continue to best fulfill our mission:

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

We are thankful for the support of all our annual donors, those who attend our special events, and those who support our Popcorn and Camp Card sales. In a year where many of these events have not occurred, or may not be rescheduled, we are asking all of you who truly believe that Scouting Matters to help us with a tax-deductible contribution. It costs us roughly \$160/Scout to provide program to our Scouts. Even a \$10 gift from everyone reading this newsletter would go a long way to helping us continue to fulfill this mission. To help make it easy on our supporters, we have created a new website that will allow you to make an immediate contribution or allow you to pledge and get billed in installments over the next few months. We encourage you to join us in helping Scouting stay strong and continue to provide program for youth when many youth have fewer activity opportunities this summer.

www.GiveScouting.com

Summer Camp Updates

Council Updates

Summer Camps may have been cancelled however the Mississippi Valley Council is still providing many unique and new program opportunities for both Scouts and Non-Scouts alike! You can read on the previous page about all the virtual programs we offered through the Spring. We're excited to unveil activities for all youth in the form of Adventures in a Box for Elementary aged youth and Merit Badges in a Box for the middle/high school aged youth. These kits are awesome for families and are suitable for boys and girls, Scouts and non-Scouts. We also have some program days scheduled for July.

Adventures in a Box

- **Skat Attack:** Pudding Pictionary, Unicorn Poop, Chia Pet, Owl Pellet Dissection, Parachute Craft, Building Challenge, S'More Kit, Reconstruct Your Box Challenge, and Skat Snack
- **Space Exploration:** Film Rocket, Galaxy Slime, Sun Dial Craft, Constellation Craft, DIY Rock Candy Craft, Building Challenge, Parachute Craft, Chia Pet, S'More Kit, Reconstruct Your Box Challenge, Moon Rock Dissection, and Astronaut Snack
- **Outdoor Adventure:** Building Challenge, Sun Dial Craft, Constellation Craft, S'More Kit, Dinosaur Egg Dissection, Parachute Craft Chia Pet, Reconstruct Your Box Challenge, DIY Rock Candy Craft

For more information visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AdventureBox>

Merit Badge in a Box

Includes everything you need in your kit including information on how to work with a certified counselor virtually to help you learn and hone your skills. More info can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MB-Boxes>

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|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| • Astronomy | • Bird Study | • Leatherwork |
| • Basketry | • Indian Lore | • Wood Carving |

Program Days

All boys and girls age 11-17 are welcome to join us at Saukenauk Scout Reservation for program days. You can participate in our Shooting Sports adventure or our Climbing Tower/Zip Line adventure. More information can be found <https://www.mississippivalleybsa.org/events/adventure-weekend/>

As camp updates evolve please visit our council website at www.mississippivalleybsa.org to view the changes and opportunities!

Mississippi Valley Council COVID(eo) Camp-in



Over the weekend of May 15-16, 2020, the Mississippi Valley Council held a virtual COVID(eo) Camporee for anyone who wanted to participate. The 120 participants enjoyed many activities over the 36-hour event including setting up a campsite in their home or backyard, listening to bedtime stories, sitting around a campfire, hiking in their neighborhood, cooking, and learning new skills such as first aid. The weekend was focused on having fun outside as a family. We had more than 100 families participate in the weekend's festivities, many breaking out their tents for the first time this camping season. We are very proud of the committee members who put this program together for our Scouts and their families.



National Camp-in



Local area Scouts joined other Scouts from around the country in the Boy Scouts of America's National Camp-In virtual event on May 2, 2020. All Scouts in our programs were able to participate in the nation-wide event, along with half a million other campers from not only the United States, but all corners of the globe. There was a little bit of something for everyone from podcast-style interviews of mountain climbers to cooking with a MasterChef Junior Finalist. There was a virtual 5K hike benefitting Feeding America. Steve Wozniak, co-founder of Apple Inc. even tuned in as a special guest! There was a Moviemaking Merit Badge offered with real behind-the-scenes, set tour, storyboard workshop from Hollywood producers Francis Lawrence and Shannon McIntosh, as well as Costumer Supervisor Jessica Pazdernik. NASA Astronaut Doug Wheelock tuned in for a live Q & A on

Space Exploration. There were more live guests and action during the weekend, but it all ended with S'mores and a National Virtual Campfire. What could be more fun than that?!



Eagle Scout Spotlight



On May 15, 2019 I decided to start my Eagle scout project. My idea was to purchase and install two stations carrying disposable waste bags on the Des Moines Humane Society building's property. This was to allow dog walkers a convenient way to clean up after their dogs have laid their waste around while being walked. My other goals were to beautify the property and to facilitate public health by reducing the potential spread of diseases that can be transmitted in pet waste.

My family has been very involved in animal welfare and in supporting the Des Moines County Humane Society and the Burlington Animal Shelter my whole life, so I was familiar with the needs and the wishes of the shelter and the organization.

I raised the money for the project by assisting Pet Supplies Plus in a dog-wash fundraising event, requesting financial assistance from the Humane Society and from individual donations. The project was completed on July 6, 2019.



Iowa Scouts Make Masks

In early April, like most Scoutmasters, Scoutmaster Matt Hadden of Troop 214, chartered by West Burlington United Methodist Church, was wanting to do some activity with the troop. Matt became aware that Hope Haven Development in Burlington was looking for some facemasks for their clients. Matt, knowing that this would be a great service project for the troop, came to the troop committee and asked about getting some scouts and parents involved to make some. Due to the pandemic and the troop not being able to meet in person this was going to be a challenge.



We reached out to the West Burlington Methodist Church to see if they would allow us to meet in their fellowship hall, and also reached out to our District Executive Keely Kangas to see if the council would allow us to meet in person to complete this task. After some negotiating and coming up with some guidelines to meet safety and social distancing requirements with all parties, we received the go ahead to move the project forward.

On April 16th, ten scouts and parents met at the church and cut out fabric pieces for the masks. Parents brought in fabric, scissors, & markers and guided the scouts as they used patterns to cut out the pieces. Some of the scouts took fabric home to continue cutting out. A couple of the parents took the cut-out pieces home and started sewing. On Saturday May 9th Junior Assistant Scoutmaster Ryne R delivered over 100 masks to Hope Haven for distribution.

Troop 214 would like to thank the Mississippi Valley Council and the West Burlington Methodist Church for allowing us to complete this service project.



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Scouting Matters is published four times a year by the Mississippi Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America. Articles and pictures are always welcome for consideration and may be e-mailed to mvc@scouting.org.

Find us online: www.mississippivalleybsa.org

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