



Patuxent Post



Patuxent Web Site – www.bsa.net/md/patuxent

March, 2001 Patuxent Happenings Four months ahead

Late Breaking Calander Changes

● APRIL ROUNDTABLES RESCHEDULED TO APRIL 4

Scheduling problem caused this to be moved up by a week. Topics for this meeting include Youth Protection, The Baysox Scout Nights and the Patuxent Wild Life Center - Pat Rooney proon@bellatlantic.net

● PATUXENT DISTRICT SPRING CAMPOREE CANCELLED

We regret to announce that the Patuxent District Spring Camporee scheduled for April has been cancelled. In spite of valient efforts by a few people, we were unable to get enough help to make this event happen in a quality fashion. Rather than put on a last minute event that failed to meet the needs and expectations of attendees, it is cancelled. We will plan earlier and work harder next year to ensure that we are able to sponsor a really quality event for the 2002 Klondike Derby. This will require participation of adult volunteers for many units and we will begin the planning and seeking volunteers for the planning committee for this event early in the fall of this year to ensure we can succeed next year.

| Days | Event | Days | Event |
|---------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| <u>April</u> | | <u>May</u> | <u>Continued</u> |
| 4 | Roundtables, Glendale Fire House 7:30 | 18 to 20 | Spring Woodbadge, Session 2 |
| 4 | Venturing Roundtable (NVVR), Centreville United Methodist Church, 6400 Old Centreville Rd, Centreville, Va | 18 to 20 | Goshen Bears Workend |
| 6 to 8 | Scout Master Fundamentals Weekend Camping | 19 to 20 | Maryland Parent-Son Weekend |
| 7 | 13th Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup, Greenbelt Park | 22 | Commissioners' meeting, New Carrollton Municipal Ctr 7:30 |
| 9 | OA Chapter Meeting, Riverdale Municipal Ctr 7:30 | 24 | District Committee Meeting and Annual Meeting (Holy Cross Lutheran Church) |
| 9 to 16 | Spring Break (PG County Schools off) | <u>June</u> | |
| 20 to 22 | Patuxent Spring Camporee, Cedarville, MD -CANCELLED- | 1 to 3 | Woodbadge, Session 3 |
| 21 and 22 | Venturing Session 3 Leave No Trace Workshop, Shenandoah National Park | 2 | District Recognition Dinner, Bowie Elks Club, 7:00 |
| 24 | Commissioner's Meeting, New Carrollton Municipal Center 7:30 | 5 | Council Annual Meeting and Silver Beaver Awards |
| 26 | District Committee Meeting, Holy Cross Lutheran Church 7:30 | 6 | Venturing Roundtable (NVVR), Centreville United Methodist Church, 6400 Old Centreville Rd, Centreville, Va |
| 27 to 29 | Scout Religious Retreat | 6/25 to 7/8 | AO GOAT Program at Goshen |
| 28 | NCAC Annual CAP Event | 9 | Council Key Scouter Training |
| 28 | Geology, Soil & Water Conservation Merit Badges, Reston, VA | 10 | OA Chapter Meeting, Riverdale Municipal Ctr 7:30 |
| 28 | Baysox Scout Night | 13 | Roundtables, Glendale Fire House 7:30 |
| <u>May</u> | | 16 | Council Train the Trainer |
| 2 | Venturing Roundtable (NVVR), Centreville United Methodist Church, 6400 Old Centreville Rd, Centreville, Va | 24 to 30 | Impeesa, Camp Snyder |
| 5 to 6 | Woodbadge, Session 1 | 24 | Goshen Week 1 |
| 9 | Roundtables, Glendale Fire House 7:30 | 25 to 29 | Cub Scout Day Camp in Bowie |
| 12 | Council Program Launch & Camp Snyder Grand Opening, Camp Snyder | 26 | No Commissioner's Meeting this month |
| 14 | OA Chapter Meeting | 28 | District Committee Meeting Holy Cross Lutheran Church |
| 24 | District Committee Meeting and Annual Meeting (Holy Cross Lutheran Church) | 30 | Goshen Week 2 |
| 14 | OA Chapter Meeting | <u>July</u> | |
| 18 to 20 | OA Spring Ordeal | 8 to 14 | Impeesa, Session Two |
| | | 9 to 13 | Cub Scout Day Camp at Greenbelt Park |

District Chairman Larry Proctor (410) 721-3544
Lproctor@fdic.gov

District Commissioner Elsie Metz (301) 249-7305
elsiemetz@aol.com

Scout Executive (Acting) Dave Roberts Droberts@boyscouts-ncac.org

District Websites:

<http://www.bsa.net/md/patuxent>

<http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/district/patuxent/>

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Commissioner's Corner

Commissioner's Corner

Elsie Metz- District Commissioner elsiemetz@aol.com

April Roundtable will be held at Glendale Firehouse on April 4. Elsie Metz 301-249-7305 or email: elsiemetz@aol.com

Adult Events & Training

Adult Training

March 29, Apr 5, 19, 21-22 V3 (Venturing, Varsity and Venture) Leader Outdoor Training (V3LOT)

We are beginning to receive reservations for this year's V3LOT course, March 29, April 5, 19, 21-22. Don't miss out on this training if you are looking to put more adventure into your unit's program or if you are looking to brush up on your own backcountry skills in preparation for a high adventure trek this summer. For more information contact course director GK Cunningham, (703) 764-3021 (home) or e-mail at 100746.1727@compuserve.com.

May 12 PROGRAM LAUNCH:

Don't forget about Program Launch at Camp Snyder on Saturday May 12. This is an event open to all leaders in your unit. You receive all of the materials to get you started on planning your unit program for the next school year. Not having a Unit Representative attend will delay receipt of all of this valuable information. In addition, there are other advantages to attending, such as meeting with District Leadership to ask questions and make suggestions, Commissioner Corps members will be there to answer questions about unit planning and how to use what is in your packet, Council program displays will be there with representatives to answer questions, other Displays will be set up related to activities your unit can partake of in the area, National Representatives will be on hand, and best of all, you have an opportunity to see what our NCAC's newest facility has to offer without driving all of the way down to Goshen. So come join us for an exciting event. I look forward to seeing each unit in our District out there. If you have any questions about this event, contact your Unit Commissioner, or any other member of the Commissioner Corps, and make sure you are represented.

June 2 District Recognition Dinner

Bowie Elks Club, Rt. 450, Crofton at 6:30 PM. Highlight this date on your calendar. We will be honoring three scouts with the District Award of Merit and many others for their inspired work and leadership over the past year. Our own Elsie Metz will be the speaker. Since she soon will be moving to Pennsylvania, this banquet promises to be a very special event. The cost is the usual \$10 per person. Invitations and flyers will be out soon.

Contact: Nick Duntun scouternick@telocity.com

June 9 Council training for all District Key Scouters and Committee Chairs.

Training in the morning. Learn how to do your job. District meeting in the afternoon.

Events

Events

Mar. 31 Junior Leadership Training

Presented by the Patuxent District Training Team, at Cresthill Baptist Church, Bowie on March 31. and then at Cedarville State Forest April 6 to 8. Cost \$30.00
Requirements: >13 yrs old, 2nd Class or better, recommended by Scoutmaster
Call Bob Killen, 301-336-7027 Home or 703-614-9518

April 7 13th Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup 2001 Theme: "From Streets to Rivers"

Did you know that plastic bottles, coffee cups, tires, toys, lawn fertilizers, and anything else that can be carried by water could end up in the Potomac River? This year, 16 counties and 2 cities in MD, VA, WV, PA and DC are working together to remove tons of trash from the Potomac River Watershed.

You can be a part of the cleanup here in your own backyard! This year, a Cleanup Project will be taking place at **Greenbelt Park on Saturday, April 7, 2001 from 9:00 to 12:00.**

Participants will be cleaning up a stream along the park's perimeter. Wear old shoes that can get wet/muddy or boots. Bring gloves if you have them. **Meet at "Park Headquarters" at the entrance to the Park, which is located right off Greenbelt Road.** (just east of the intersection of Kenilworth Ave. and Greenbelt Rd, across from TGI Fridays) For more information contact Ranger Alex Culver (301) 344-3944 or www.potomaccleanup.org.

Remember, hours worked on this project can be counted toward the 12 hours you need to earn your "Service To National Parks Award." The patch and information about this award can be found at www.servicetoamerica.org.

Apr. 16 Fifth Annual Public Health



Date: Monday, April 16, 2001

Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Location: Sports and Learning Complex

8001 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD 20785

Uniforms: Scouts should wear their Class A uniform

Bluecards: All Scouts should provide a blue card signed by their Scoutmaster.

Cost: Free



The class is limited to 80 Scouts, forty Scouts from the Patuxent District and forty from the Two Rivers District. To reserve a spot contact Victor Kwansa at 301-459-5834 or Vida Kwansa at 301-313-3840. Also, you can register by email at vmkwansa@co.pg.md.us

Scouts exhibiting poor behavior will be asked to contact their parents and go home.

Here is a helpful workbook. (adobe acrobat format) <http://www.angelfire.com/md2/bsapax/mbreg/pubhealth.pdf>

Flyer and Preregistration form at <http://www.angelfire.com/md2/bsapax/paxpost/mar/publichealth.jpg>

Apr 20-22 Patuxent Spring Camporee CANCELLED



Spring is in the air!--at least it soon will be. And what is spring, without a district camporee? But there is no camporee, without you and me.

April 20-21 District Camporee. Contact: Bob Killen, 301-336-7027 Email: rfkille@hotmail.com

April 22 REI Paddlesports Demo

On Sunday, April 22 at Pohick Regional Bay Park, Lorton, VA from 12:00 Noon - 4:00 PM, REI will hold its annual Paddlesports Day. Here is an opportunity to test drive the canoe or kayak you have had your eye on! Canoes, touring and recreational kayaks from Mad River, Perception and Dagger will be available for test paddling.

Apr. 27-29 Scout Religious Retreat

Again this year there will be separate retreat programs for Catholic and Protestant Scouts on the same weekend, at the same site. In addition, there will be many joint activities for all Scouts to share. The Religious Retreat traditionally has been a highlight of many Troop's program year.

Put it on your troop calendar, now. Bring all your Scouts. Let them camp and have fun together, and participate in either the Catholic or the Protestant Religious Program. The theme for the 2001 retreat will be "Walk with the Spirit".

The Religious Retreat will again be held on the grounds of Our Lady of Mattaponi Youth Retreat Center in Croom Maryland.

For information or advanced registration, call Don Sparlin at 301-262-5639 or Dottie Tamai at 301-773-1995

Apr. 28 NCAC's Annual CAP EVENT

Venturing Crews and Explorer Posts, be looking for your package inviting you to attend this year's CAP EVENT at the US Naval Academy on Saturday, April 28. This year's program includes leadership exercises led by Eagle Scout midshipmen, GPS skills course, Marine range operations at the Naval Station, unit challenge course, flag ceremony including a color guard of midshipmen and participants, and closing vespers. Cost is anticipated to be \$20 which includes a patch, two meals and all program materials. Space will be limited so get your registration in early.

Apr. 28 Geology Merit Badge & Soil & Water Merit Badge

U.S. Geological Survey Open House, Reston VA from 10 AM to 6 PM, 1000 visitors expected

There are a limited number of slots for merit badge counseling: 120 for Geology and 70 for Soil & Water Conservation, make reservations

Either merit badge can be completed in one day. The Geology merit badge is suitable for older boys.

In addition to the merit badges (no cost), other activities include gold panning, exhibits, tours and videos

For further informatio contact Odette James (office) 703-648-6753 ojames@usgs.gov or (home) 703-476-9738, o.b.james@worldnet.att.net

Apr. 28 Baysox Scout Night



Baysox Scout Night April 28. 7:05 PM Pre-game parade for scouts in uniform, bring banners. Discounted tickets: \$3.50 for Souts and Leaders, \$5.50 for Family Members, \$8.50 for reserved Box Seats. Fireworks following the game. Call 301-805-6000 or <http://www.baysox.com>

Contact: Donald Gakenheimer, Theme Night Coordinator, Bowie Baysox, 4101 NE Crain Hwy, Bowie, MD 20716, 301-805-6000 x300

Apr. 28 EMS Club Day Eastern Mountain Sports Scout Discount Day

Bring your BSA registration card to Eastern Mountain Sports on Saturday April 28 and take 20% off your entire purchase! This is a great opportunity to get the high dollar piece of gear that you just cannot live without.

Apr. 29 Maryland 500 Bicycle Awareness Tour

Discover the excellent bicycle trails, commuter routes and bike facilities in College Park, Beltsville, Greenbelt and northern Prince George's County. Join the College Park Area Coalition on their 13th annual Spring Ride on Sunday, April 29 at 9:00 AM at the REI College Park store. There will be two loops of 12 to 15 miles, each loop starting and finishing at the store. There terrain is mostly level with a few gentle hill and the route is suitable for riders of all ages and skill levels. Remember to wear your helmet. REI technicians will be available to provide air, safety checks and minor adjustments before the ride.

May 12 Council Program Launch

Camp Snyder near Haymarket, VA . Units may pick up Program Launch kit, meet with a commissioner, see exhibits, see the facility, etc. Watch for more information on Program Launch.

Jun 25-29, July 9-13 Cubscout Day Camp

This year the theme is **EXPLORING YOUR WORLD**. and the plan is to make this an exciting Camp.

The dates have been set:

Allen Pond in Bowie - June 25 to 29

Greenbelt Park in Greenbelt - July 9 to 13



The fee this year is \$75.00 if paid before 13 April and \$85.00 if paid after that date.

Although Elsie Metz will not be the Program Director this year, she will be available for camp promotions. Call her on 301-249-7305 or use e-mail elsiemetz@aol.com.

Pete Saderholm will be the Program Director this year and he is now putting together the staff. Pam Stehmer has agreed to help with Admin details and some other positions are filled but there is a significant need for people interested in helping at both or either camp. Please call Pete at 410-45104713 or e-mail petegene@erols.com or Pam at 301-262-4575 or kstehmer@erols.com if you interested in helping make this a successful Day Camp for our Cubs.

There is no Webelos Camp with its usual overnight planned for this year. It appears that is against NCAC policy and so we have not programmed this activity. Webelos are welcome to join the Cubs in the Day Camp if they choose.

June 11-23 & July 27-Aug. 8 Venturing Nature of Leadership Program

National Venturing Division has announced a Nature of Leadership program for this summer. Three courses will be offered; two are Philmont treks and the third is a Yukon Rive float trip through the Yukon Charley National River Preserve. The programs are high adventure based, but are concentrated on teaching advanced leadership skills to Venturers. The Philmont treks are June 11-23 and July 27-August 8 and cost \$395 not counting transportation. The Yukon River trip is July 6-15 and costs \$500 not including air fare. There are 10 youth slots open for each trek. For more information, contact NCAC.

June 29 Scout Nights at PG Stadium

Scout nights are on April 28th with a sleepover on June 29th. Scouts and scout leaders can get reduced ticket prices and on the 29th they can camp on the field overnight. All scouts get to march on the field before the game in a pregame parade. There will also be demonstrations on the concourse area those evening by some scout troops.

Contact: Donald Gakenheimer, Theme Night Coordinator, Bowie Baysox, 4101 NE Crain Hwy, Bowie, MD 20716, 301-805-6000 x300

July 1-15 Provisional Philmont Expeditions

Have the high Adventure Fever, but your Unit is not planning anything to scratch your itch next Summer? Why not explore the 215 squares of rugged New Mexico backcountry that is Philmont Scout Ranch!!1 Ascend 12,000 foot peaks, try your hand at a wealth of outdoor programs, experience the true test of your scouting skills, and gather memories that will live with you a lifetime.

Expedition #P-703 July 01 to July 15, 2001
Expedition size is 38 Youth and 8 adults
Expedition Cost: \$1,150.00

Contact Robert Kirk, 301-595-9759, gcmozart@erols.com

July 6-14 10th Scouts Canada Jamboree

Venturing Crew 1519 recently lost two Venturer so now we have 8 of the 12 crew slots (2 adults and 6 youth) to go with us to the 10th Scouts Canada Jamboree at Prince Edward Island, July 6-14, 2001. We still need four more people. Join us as we camp with 10,000 scouts from all over the world. Activities will include an opening extravaganza and closing celebration, Voyageur canoeing, overnight rafting, kayaking, dory sailing, hi-tech orienteering, climbing wall, pioneering, and search and rescue. Total cost of the jamboree is about \$800.00 depending on transportation costs. For more information, please call Cooper Wright at (703) 971-0044 or e-mail at coopwright@aol.com.

June 24 - July 8 Goat Program



Amangamek-Wipit Lodge approved the Goshen Order of the Arrow Trail Crew Program for 2001. This program is based out of the Goshen Scout Reservation, (June 24 through July 8) for only \$100 per participant.

A new adventure starts this summer at Goshen for older OA members which includes a week of service and learning serious outdoor skills (such as fire fighting techniques, trail building, and a Leave No Trace instructors program, plus a good dose of Order of the Arrow and Native American history; followed by a week of on the trail Lenhok'sin fun.

For details, see

<http://mars.umd.edu/oa/2001GoshenTrail/2001GoshenTrail.html> or contact Nick Dunten at 301 927-0501 scouternick@telecity.com.

July 21-28, 2001 Scout Jam International Camp



Houens Odde Scout Centre, Denmark / Danemark

Featuring: Rafting, sailing, climbing, giant pioneering, non-traditional hike, nature activities, archery

For: 200, 14-18 years old

Fee: DKK 890.-, incl. food

Information: Houens Odde Spejdercenter, Scout Jam, Houens Odde 14-20, DK - 6000 Kolding, Denmark

E-mail: houensodde@kfumscout.dk

Want to find out more about this event? Visit their web site at www.houensodde.dk

Host: KFUM - Spejderne i Danmark (YMCA Scouts in Denmark)

July 28 - August 4 Jamboree Cymru 2001



Welsh Themes & Legends
Glanusk Park, Wales
United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni

The Scouts of Wales welcomes all Scouts and Guides to join Jamboree Cymru 2001. This 14th Welsh Jamboree will be held at Glanusk Park, a beautiful greenfield site which is on the approach to the magnificent Brecon Beacons National Park. Featured activities include abseiling, archery, canoeing, caving, climbing, dragon boat racing, gliding, grass skiing, hiking, mountain biking, cyber cafŽ, pony trekking. This event is expected to draw a total of 2,500 participants. The camp fee for members will be £80.00 and £40.00 for Leaders. This fee will include a camp badge, handbook, activities and all camp facilities but excludes the cost of food, travel and camping equipment.

Contact: Mr. Denis Hunt, RER Scout House, Plasnewydd Road, Roath, Cardiff, Wales CF24 3EN

E-mail: robert.angus@ntlworld.com

Visit their web site at www.jamboree-cymru.org.uk

To book Troops and Units, the completed Booking Form must be returned by March 16, 2001 with a non-returnable deposit of £15.00 per person. All checks must be payable to "Jamboree Cymru". Booking forms and deposits will be acknowledged. The balance of the camp fee must be paid by 4 May 2001. Booking forms together with the deposit and a large addressed envelope (C5) with stamps to the value of 50p (or an International reply coupon) should be sent to: Mr. Denis Hunt, Deputy Administrator/Troop Bookings, RER Scout House, Plasnewydd Road, Roath, Cardiff, CF24 3GP. Home hospitality will be available to International participants.

News

NEWS

Camping Web Pages & Addresses

| | |
|---|---|
| Patuxent Camping Chair — Nick Dunten | scouternick@telocity.com |
| Goshen | www.boyscouts-ncac.org/goshen |
| Lenhok'sin High Adventure | www.boyscouts-ncac.org/goshen/lenhock |
| Goshen Order of the Arrow Trail (GOAT) Crew | http://mars.umd.edu/oa/2001GoshenTrail/2001GoshenTrail.html |
| Council High Adventure Committee | www.highadventurecommittee.org |
| Philmont Scout Ranch | www.philmont.com |
| Maine High Adventure | www.mainehighadventure.org |
| Northern Tier | www.ntier.org |
| Florida Sea Base | www.bsaseabase.org |

Scout Camps Not In Our Council

| | |
|--|--|
| Broad Creek — Baltimore Council | www.baltimore-bsa.org |
| Tuckahoe — York-Adams Council (PA) | (800) 569-5197 |
| Rodney — DelMarVa Council | |
| Henson — DelMarVa Council (Eastern Shore) | home.dmv.com/~dmvcncl |
| Hidden Valley — Keystone Area Council (PA) | (717) 766-1591 |
| Mack — Lancaster-Lebanon Council (PA) | (717) 626-8711 |
| Bayshore — Lancaster-Lebanon Council (PA) | (717) 865-4583 |
| Hawk Mountain (PA) | home.epix.net~hawkmnt/hsmr |

If you have information you wish to add to this list, contact scouternick@telocity.com

FOS update



There are still a few units that don't have presentations scheduled. So far we have \$9,000 pledged or collected out of a \$21,000 goal. We collected over \$20,000 last year. Dick Clark dickclark2@aol.com

Venturers Receive Silver and Ranger Awards

At a March 28th Court of Honor, several Venturers from Crew 1519 received awards recognizing their leadership development and knowledge of outdoor skills. Suheyyla Ayhan and Daniel Rauscher received Venturing's highest award, the Silver Award. Suheyyla is a junior at Lake Braddock High School where she is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America. Daniel is a junior at Thomas Jefferson and a member of several of their clubs. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Venturing Ranger Award to both Martin and Daniel Rauscher. The Ranger Award was recently re-introduced by Boy Scouts of America after over fifty years of dormancy. During the 1940s, the Ranger Award was given to less than 1,800 scouts who were recognized as elite outdoorsmen. Martin is a freshman at the University of Virginia. Both he and Daniel have an extensive outdoor background including Len Hok'sin Trail, a canoe trek in the Adirondacks, and an 80 mile trek through the rugged mountains of Philmont Scout Ranch.

The Four C's by Walt Disney

Somehow I can't believe there are many heights that can't be scaled by a man who knows the secret that can be summarized in four C's. They are curiosity, confidence, courage, and constancy, and the greatest of these is confidence. When you believe a thing, believe it all the way. Have confidence in your ability to do it right. And work hard to do the best possible job.

Cooper Wright home (703) 971-0044
Colonial District V3 Coordinator work (703) 604-0706

Order of the Arrow

OA NEWS

Goshen Update

Nick Dunten scouternick@telocity.com

The new COPE Course should be ready this summer and Council is looking for staff. The course will be located close to the Health Lodge and is to be one of the best in the country. Shower houses are being power cleaned, painted and refitted with all new fixtures. All new canvas is coming and plans are being made to build internal frames for the tents. Bids are being let for all new cots. If your unit hasn't been to Goshen in a few years, it's time to go back. The program is great as are the facilities. Emphasis is being placed on staff training this year at all staff age levels so merit badge instruction should be stronger than ever. Contact Nick Dunten (district camping chair) at 301 927-0501 or scouternick@telocity.com for answers to your questions or a short presentation at your unit meeting. Also, visit the Goshen web site at <http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/goshen/index.html>

Youth Led Units - Part 2

Over the last several months, there has been an ongoing dialogue concerning what makes up a "boy led" unit on the Scouts-L list on the internet. Barry Runnels, an experienced Scoutmaster from Oklahoma posted a response that I felt was worth repeating. This is the final part of his column:

"OK, those are the rules. Now here is a few exercises to teach better role modeling in a boy led troop.

1. Walk in to the activity and ask yourself, "If there were no adults here, would these guys behave the same way?" If you think no, then change what you are doing. Get the adults out of the area. If you want to develop habits that lead to good character, you have to learn what your boys' bad habits are. You want them to act based on what they think is appropriate, not from your intimidation or from what you want. Once you understand their behavior, work with the PLC to change them. It took us about two years to teach the PLC how to get troop meetings started on time. Now, the boys not only start on time, but they make sure the Scoutmaster's Minute stops on time. Boy, that sure put a wet blanket on my ego.

2. When you want the boys to take action, give them your ideas and walk away. I have learned that boys are waiting for you to make the decisions for them. Even if you say nothing, your body language can still give your intentions away. Sometime you simply have to leave so that the boys will plan what they think is appropriate and not what they think you want. We started weekly PLC meetings, but the Senior Patrol Leader struggled and would always wait for me to keep the discussion going. And me being a self serving adult, I always took his lead away. Then I started leaving the meetings, first for five minutes, then ten, then fifteen. The first year or two, the meetings lost control. The SPL would seek help and I talk with him about things that he could do and walk away again. Don't stand there until you get your way. Hand you youth leaders your ideas and the wisdom behind those ideas and then walk away.

3. In all things, ask yourself, how would the boys do this? Seven years ago, we adults decided that the boys wanted patrol boxes. We didn't ask the scouts, we just did it. We spent about \$1000 to build these big heavy boxes that would cripple a scout if dropped. It got to the point that we needed a diesel truck to pull our trailer. With the help of another adult, I decided to have the troop begin to pack in all their gear. When I suggested that we use patrol boxes for half of our campouts and pack in the rest, many adults resisted. However, the boys said "we never wanted the boxes anyway". Sure enough, the change was welcomed by the boys. They said they would even like to burn the boxes. Every time some adult comes up with a complicated method for advancement, merit badges, accounting, or anything, I ask myself, how would the boys do it and I try to give them. Boys think in very direct terms and can simplify your program.

4. Don't be afraid of bad behavior. Take no responsibility for the boys' actions, good or bad. We keep talking about building character by letting our boys learn from their mistakes and then we adults get angry when they do something we don't like. We have one troop in our district where there seems to be this game for the older scouts to get the adults angry at them. They leave camp in the middle of the night, the adults react. They tease younger scouts and the adults react. Teach your PLC to handle youth behavior. The adults are advisors, so advise. Don't preach boy run and then take over just because you are embarrassed or angry by a boy's behavior. If you are worried that your scouts will run amuck, you will be surprised once the PLC get used to handling inappropriate behavior. Boys are usually harder on themselves than you are. And if something comes up that the PLC can't handle, they will bring it to your advice. We have few behavior problems because the PLC pretty much nips them in the bud. They don't like to deal with problems, so they stop them. I find first year scouts are the worst problems because they don't believe that scouts are really their leaders and when adults are out of camp, they misbehave. Last summer at camp, I caught two new scouts running races through camp. they didn't get in trouble from me. I pointed out my disappointment to the SPL and there were no problems for the rest of the week. I refuse to yell or get mad. However, I still get disappointed and I hate it because it terrible role modeling."