From Jim Wilson, a volunteer, is chairman of the National Youth Protection Support Committee

October is National Bullying Prevention Month, and I’d like to remind all our Scouting parents and leaders that a Scout is kind.

With all the issues young people face in 2017, it’s more important than ever for all of us to be vigilant about bullying prevention. We must remind and reteach our Scouts the concept of “a Scout is kind”.

The idea that a Scout should treat others as he or she wants to be treated is woven throughout the programs and literature of the Boy Scouts of America. When a Scout follows the principles of the Scout Oath and Law, bullying and hazing situations should never occur.

However, as Scouting leaders and parents, we may feel uncertain about how to handle bullying when we see or hear it happening in or out of Scouting. Because of this, we may respond in ways that don’t make the best use of the opportunity to teach a Scout the difference between appropriate and inappropriate behavior. We all acknowledge that bullying among children is inappropriate. It is aggressive behavior that is intentional, and involves an imbalance of power and strength. This makes it important that we handle bullying appropriately.

Scouts, Scouters and parents must not stand by during instances of bullying. Sadly, this happens too often because of a lack of understanding of the subject. There’s good news, however. The BSA has a number of recommended and required practices, policies and procedures. A significant amount of information on the subject continues to be developed and made available.

We’re working with several nationally recognized experts and organizations to make sure that our focus on bullying prevention is clear and visible in all that we say, do and practice.

To that end, the 13th edition of the Boy Scout Handbook now includes a specific chapter on Personal Safety Awareness. The chapter, which starts on page 394, addresses bullying and hazing from both sides of the issue.

Please pick up a nearby Handbook and review this chapter. I challenge you, as leaders, to help our youth understand what “a Scout is kind” means.

Thanks for helping the BSA be the safe place that our parents expect and our youth deserve.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!

We are looking for photos of your troop activities to use in our flyers, announcements and membership materials. If you have photos you would like to submit, please email them, along with permission to use the images and likenesses, to rocklandscouts@gmail.com.
Which Positions of Responsibility Count Toward Star, Life and Eagle Scout?

Scouting teaches responsibility. It teaches young people to take on a role in which they’re accountable to their fellow Scouts. This role is known as a position of responsibility. As a young man advances toward becoming an Eagle Scout, he’s required to take on one of these roles.

By the time he becomes an Eagle Scout, a young man will have served at least 16 months in a position of responsibility. It’s kind of a dress rehearsal for life. Taking on added responsibilities in a safe setting, where failing is OK, prepares him for life.

In this episode of Scouting 101, we’ll look at the position of responsibility requirements for Star, Life and Eagle.

What are the position of responsibility requirements?

**Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class:** No position of responsibility requirements.

**Star requirement 5:** While a First Class Scout, a young man must serve actively for four months in one or more of the acceptable positions of responsibility listed in the next section. (Or he may carry out a Scoutmaster-approved leadership project to help the troop.)

**Life requirement 5:** While a Star Scout, a young man must serve actively for six months in one or more of the acceptable positions of responsibility listed in the next section. (Or he may carry out a Scoutmaster-approved leadership project to help the troop.)

**Eagle Scout requirement 4:** While a Life Scout, a young man must serve actively for six months in one or more of the acceptable positions of responsibility listed in the next section. (The Scoutmaster-approved leadership project is not an option for Eagle.)

Which positions count toward the requirements?

In Scouting, as in life, “responsibility” can take on a number of different forms. Not every young man needs to be a senior patrol leader or patrol leader. He can still take on responsibilities that help him grow.

In a Boy Scout troop, there are 16 eligible positions of responsibility for Star and Life. There are even more if you count positions in a Venturing crew or Sea Scout ship. (See the next section for more on that.) For Eagle, there are 15 options within the troop and more in a crew or ship.

Having a number of eligible positions helps larger troops. In these troops, it would be impossible for each Scout to take a turn as senior patrol leader or assistant senior patrol leader. Multiple options also allows a Scout to find a role that interests him.

Here’s the list. Two things to note: You won’t see assistant patrol leader listed here. It is not an approved position of responsibility for rank advancement. Bugler, while acceptable for the Star and Life ranks, is not an approved position of responsibility for the Eagle Scout rank.

**Boy Scout troop:** Patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, senior patrol leader, troop guide, Order of the Arrow troop representative, den chief, scribe, librarian, historian, quartermaster, bugler*, junior assistant Scoutmaster, chaplain aide, instructor, webmaster or outdoor ethics guide.

**Varsity Scout team:** Captain, co-captain, program manager, squad leader, team secretary, Order of the Arrow team representative, librarian, historian, quartermaster, chaplain aide, instructor, den chief, webmaster or outdoor ethics guide.

**Venturing crew:** President, vice president, secretary, treasurer, den chief, historian, guide, quartermaster, chaplain aide or outdoor ethics guide.

**Sea Scout ship:** Boatswain, boatswain's mate, purser, yeoman, storekeeper, crew leader, media specialist, specialist, den chief or chaplain aide.

**Lone Scout:** Leadership responsibility in your school, religious organization, club or elsewhere in your community.*Only counts toward Star and Life — not Eagle.

OUR EAGLES SOAR!

Congratulations to the following scouts who achieved the rank of Eagle in September!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eagle Date</th>
<th>Eagle Scout</th>
<th>Troop</th>
<th>Eagle Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>R. Reicher</td>
<td>2078</td>
<td>Beautification and Benches for Rockland County Gulf War Memorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>J. Sestak</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Grace Church Prayer Boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>T. Wynne</td>
<td>2036</td>
<td>Franklin Ave School Garden Shed &amp; Compost Bins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3 Benefits of Being a Cub Scout

The benefits of being a Cub Scout make a big difference in the course of a Scout’s life. From developmental years to adulthood, research shows Scouts gain life skills that set them apart long after their days in pack meetings. Aside from the fun and friendship of Cub Scouts, a Tufts study of more than 2,000 Cub Scouts and non-Scouts showed there were other big wins for kids who were part of the program.

If you sign your son up for Cub Scouts, he’ll benefit from these three key character-building attributes:

**Goal Orientation** – Scouting provides a clear path for kids to succeed at making and achieving tough goals. Whether working toward achieving a new Scouting rank or striving to gain a new skill, Scouts are constantly working toward reaching measurable goals. Not only do these achievements follow a Scout throughout life, but he also establishes the habit of setting and striving for personal, academic, and professional goals as an adult.

**Leadership** – Scouting provides consistent opportunities for Scouts to learn and practice leadership skills. Leading projects and peers is the norm for kids in the program. As Scouts mature in rank, their leadership abilities continue to grow and they’re offered even more opportunities to lead. This helps kids develop into adults who stand out as leaders in their workplaces and communities.

**Preparedness** – Scouting builds life skills (like learning to conquer hard tasks) by facing challenges head-on. The program is structured so that what once seemed impossible to a Scout becomes attainable, a positive cycle that prepares youth for the undoubted challenges they will meet in life.

If you’re seeking a program for your kids to build skills for life, the benefits of being a Cub Scout are important to consider. Learn more about Cub Scouts and find a pack in your area by heading to Be a Scout.

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**What is the Outdoor Ethics Guide?**

The outdoor ethics guide is a troop-level position of responsibility for youth that, in January 2016, replaced the position of Leave No Trace trainer.

Essentially, the outdoor ethics guide is the primary role model on how to behave outdoors. The outdoor ethics guide, shortened here to OEG, will help others make choices that reduce impacts on our natural world.

The OEG challenges his troop to:

- Minimize what impacts you can.
- Avoid those you cannot.
- Preserve the quality of outdoor resources and recreational experience.

The OEG works with younger Scouts to help introduce them to the concepts of the Outdoor Code, principles of Leave No Trace and the ideals of Tread Lightly! Think of the OEG as an outdoors coach. Think of the Outdoor Ethics Guide Handbook as a playbook listing all the right moves.

What are some examples of what an OEG might do?

- Before the trip: Help plan outings in a way that minimizes impacts. Help the troop understand rules and regulations at a particular outdoor spot. Ensure the troop has the right equipment to leave minimal impact.
- During the trip: Make adjustments on the fly — things like encouraging the troop to stay on the trail or set up tents in the proper place. At the end of each day, discuss what the troop did right and what might be improved.

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**This month’s recipe**

**CHICKEN AND RICE CASSEROLE**

**Ingredients:**
- 2 cups of Minute Rice dry
- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 1 can carrots
- 1 can peas (or green beans)
- 1 30 oz can of chicken
- Onion flakes
- Garlic powder

**Instructions:** In greased 12” Dutch Oven (or use a liner), add rice, chicken, soup, peas and carrots (both drained), 2 cans of water, salt pepper, onion flakes, and garlic powder. Mix up well.

Bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees until rice is tender. Temperature is usually 1 ring of coals under, 1 1/2 rings on top.

Note: For vegetarian, eliminate chicken and substitute cream of celery soup.

Submit your unit’s favorite recipe.
**TAKE THE PLEDGE**

Pledge to never, ever use your phone while driving, because #ItCanWait — This is a great troop/crew activity for your older scouts...

It makes no sense. The latest research says 95 percent of us disapprove of distracted driving. And yet 71 percent of us still use our phones while behind the wheel.

These days, it’s not just texting that’s the problem. Now our phones bleep and buzz every minute with the latest 50-percent-off deal, score update and friend request. Each notification distracts the driver. Each distraction could be deadly.

It’s time for something to change. It’s time for #ItCanWait. Scouters, parents, and driving-age Scouts and Venturers should take the #ItCanWait pledge today. By committing to go phones down, eyes up, you’re making the road a safer place for everyone. AT&T has a wealth of resources about the #ItCanWait pledge, which you can use to share this message with your Boy Scout troop, Venturing crew or Explorer post.

**The #ItCanWait pledge**

By taking the #ItCanWait pledge, you’re committing to Care, Share and Be Aware:

- I pledge to Care for those around me and put my phone down when I’m driving.
- I pledge to Share the message: distracted driving is never OK.
- I pledge to Be Aware that I’m never alone on the road.

Distracted-driving statistics.

Walking on the sidewalks near my office, I see far too many people using their phones while driving. It seems like every other car has someone with one hand on the wheel and two eyes on the phone.

Unfortunately, my anecdotal evidence is backed by real numbers. Here’s what a new study, commissioned by AT&T, shows:

- Seven in 10 people engage in smartphone activities while driving.
- 62 percent of people keep their smartphones within easy reach while driving.
- Nearly four in 10 smartphone users tap into social media while driving.
- Almost three in 10 surf the net, and one in 10 video chat.
- Facebook tops the social platform list, with more than a quarter of those polled saying they use the app while driving.
- About one in seven said they’re on Twitter behind the wheel.

Resources for you

- Download this #ItCanWait toolkit from AT&T
- Visit AT&T’s #ItCanWait website for videos, resources and to take the “It Can Wait” pledge.
- Incorporate #ItCanWait into your Traffic Safety merit badge instruction.

- Visit the Transportation section of the BSA’s Guide to Safe Scouting, where you’ll find important safety tips to remember when driving Scouts around.
- Speaking of the Traffic Safety merit badge, the resources section has been updated with a link to AT&T’s #ItCanWait campaign.

**A simple activity to try at your next meeting**

Don’t just tell young people about the ways a phone can distract them from other tasks. Show them. You’ll need three balloons for every two or three Scouts or Venturers.

1. Ask the Scouts to begin texting with a friend, scrolling through their news feed or watching a video on their phone.
2. Once they’ve started, tell them to keep the three balloons in the air.
3. Have them do this for about a minute — keeping the balloons afloat while still paying attention to their phone.
4. Once everyone has a turn, have an older Scout or Venturer lead a discussion about doing something when distracted by your phone. What made it difficult? Did they feel like they could do an adequate job keeping the balloons in the air? How did the activity make them feel about distracted driving?

**Ways Scouts can get involved**

- Plan a service project that promotes distracted driving awareness.
- Create an It Can Wait contract for their parents to sign — and make them promise that they won’t use their phone while they’re driving.
- Host an event to raise awareness about distracted driving.
- Decorate signs that say “Distracted driving is never OK. It Can Wait.”

**Ways adults can get involved**

- Change your email signature on your phone to encourage others to wait to respond: “Sent from my phone. This email was not sent while driving. Distracted driving is never OK. It Can Wait.”
- Be an advocate at your office. Work with your company’s HR to raise awareness about It Can Wait and encourage safe driving.
- Add an It Can Wait sticker to the back of your phone case to remind you distracted driving is never OK.
- Download the AT&T DriveMode app, which makes it easier to drive without distractions. Or, if you’ve upgraded your iPhone to iOS 11, use the new “Do Not Disturb While Driving” feature.

TAKE THE PLEDGE
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October 2017

PACK 2146

Pack 2146 has a tradition of designing our first camp out of the year to be a relatively “easy” camp out. We have activities available for the scouts, but also build in time for them to get to know each other naturally, and find their own fun. This serves the purpose of easing the transition of our returning scouts back to the more routine “Scouting year” mindset, as well as allowing our new scouts to have a fun experience.

We started a new tradition this year of having a potluck dinner during the camp out. This ushered in a chance for returning families and new families to appreciate the fellowship that is so strongly intertwined in Scouting. Sharing a favorite recipe and enjoying the chats about the different dishes opened doors to other discussions, like admiring the diversity in our pack, Scouting in general, family, school, work, sports, parenting, cooking, camping...the topics ran the gamut! I have full confidence that the doors opened will result in bridges built and a positive impact on our community on many different levels.

Pack 2146 recognizes the importance of including our scouts’ family as much as possible. In order for the entire family to experience the benefits of the scouting adventure, they need to be present to watch the leaders model the Scout Law in action, listen to how to connect choices (in many cases that their scout is already making) to the tenets of the Law and Oath. This will help them reinforce these actions and start to think about other ways to help their son in his Scouting adventure. We’re off to a terrific start... and how do we know? Families are getting active! Texts and emails are aflight to make sure that they have all upcoming meetings and activities squarely in the calendar so they don’t miss them! Whenever we run into families after school or in the community, they keep mentioning that they had a great time at the previous meeting or event! These moments need to be reinforced and strengthened, in order to tap into the creativity and passion that all of our parents have. This will help ensure they feel as much a part of Scouting as their son is, and will encourage further participation!

UNIT NEWS

CUB SCOUTS

PACK 2046

Pack 2046 held a Go Kart Derby on Saturday, August 19, 2017 at the Tappan Golf Center (Tappan, NY). After the derby, scouts and family enjoyed fries, burgers and ice cream at The Filling Station in Palisades, NY.

On Monday, August 21, 2017, Pack 2046 celebrated the solar eclipse viewing with a barbeque with over 75 guests near Kennedy Dells County Park. Pack leadership discussed what happens during the eclipse and provided instructions on how to properly view the eclipse. All pack participants received eclipse-safe viewing glasses. Several dens within the pack hiked the Kennedy Dells trail to satisfy rank requirements.
CUB SCOUTS

PACK 49
Pack 49 is off to a Flying Start. The adult leaders of Pack 49 dare say that their Cubs have way too much energy! In our first few gatherings, we’ve raced boats, weaved yarn crafts, and made homemade ice cream from scratch. Stop by and visit “49” at the Traphagen House Fall Festival on Germonds Road in West Nyack on October 22nd.

BOY SCOUTS

TROOP 2146
Troop 2146 has been busy thanks to their SPL, Jared Spivak. Scouts have participated in St. Mary Church’s 20 mile bike ride for charity and have volunteered their time at Harmony Hall’s Bluegrass Festival in Sloatsburg. Scouts have also volunteered to paint a fence just outside the Eagle Valley Firehouse in Tuxedo and have helped Maxwell Gedvilla in his project of restoring the Sterling Iron Furnace.

TROOP 97
Troop 97 New City has put a busy summer behind us and launched into fall! Several of our scouts completed the final touches on their summer Eagle projects, with projects located around New City and Pearl River, while 2 more started fundraising for theirs.

We held our SPL and Patrol Leader elections and got our year off to a great, active start. On 9/11, we participated in the Town of Clarkstown Ceremony to honor those we lost on that tragic day. And 10/1 saw us participating with Hackensack Riverkeeper, Suez and Keep Rockland Beautiful in their annual Lake DeForest Clean-up. 20 scouts and many adults showed up to encircle the lake and clean up debris ranging from fishing lines to old tires. We look forward to an even more active October including camping, night hikes and backpacking!

Photos: Anthony M. Eagle Workday, KRB Lake Deforest Cleanup, Clarkstown 9/11 Ceremony
BOY SCOUTS

TROOP 2010
Troop 2010 is at the Rest Stop at the North Rockland Central School District Administration building on Sunday, October 22, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to help during “Bike MS”, a fundraising event for the National MS Society, by handing out refreshments to the participants and cheer on the cyclists.

TROOP 33
This past month, Troop 33 had an amazing Court of Honor ceremony conducted by three of our scouts. Collectively, our troop earned and received over 200 merit badges! Awesome job to all of our young men! Thank you leaders and counselors for all that you do!

TROOP 79
Troop 79 Has Been Busy!!! September was all about Eagle Scout service projects for Troop 79. We have several Life Scouts currently working on their service projects, and a couple of other scouts who are finishing up their projects or are about to begin.

Richie Bialik was putting the finishing touches on his project, the installation of a public address system at New City Jewish Center. The project required the installation of speakers in the ceiling throughout the synagogue, along with the installation of an amplifier in the synagogue office. The system will allow the synagogue staff to communicate with people in the building. It will also be used by the Hebrew school to make announcements to students.

Daniel Southard has been putting the finishing touches on his Eagle Scout service project, the construction of a paver walkway and planting area around the flagpole and war memorials in the park on Central Avenue in Pearl River. Daniel has been working on the project with help from his fellow scouts and adult leaders from Troop 79, and friends from his high school.

Matthew Davidson is constructing a trail kiosk in Sterling Forest for the NY/NJ Trail Conference. The kiosk is being built at the Red Back trail in Sterling Forest. The NY/NJ Trail conference is currently developing a multi use trail network in the area. Matthew’s project will provide them with an information kiosk at the main trail head parking lot. Matthew held a car wash to raise the funds needed and worked with Bob Terry at Beckerle Lumber in Haverstraw on the kiosk design and materials selection. Matthew, along with his fellow scouts and adult leaders from Troop 79, has been working diligently on the project, and hopes to have it completed by the end of October.

Joshua Feldberg has been working on a concrete walkway at Helen Hayes Rehabilitation Hospital in Haverstraw. The walkway is an expansion of the hospital’s adapted sports program. It will enable participants in the hospital’s golf program, as well as other adapted sports, to more easily access the program area. Many of the participants in the program require the use of wheelchairs and other assistance devices. Currently, they must cross an uneven grassy field to get to the program area. The project also includes the installation of two benches along the walkway so that participants will have a place to sit and rest while involved in program activities. Josh and his fellow scouts and adult leaders have completed the excavation of the walkway, construction of the concrete forms and installation of the stone base. He is hoping to have the concrete poured and the project completed by the end of October.

John Tyrie is about to begin work on his Eagle Scout service project, the installation of a flag pole and planting area at St. Francis of Assisi Church in West Nyack. John has completed his fund-raising activities and is getting ready for his first work day. Scouts from Troop 79, along with adult leaders, will be working with John to excavate the area for the installation of the flag pole and planting area. John is hoping to have his project completed in October.
VENTURING CREW 97

Venturing Crew 97 started the year off with a kayaking tour on the Hudson River. We began in Cornwall NY with a gear and safety briefing from Storm King Adventure Tours who were our guides for the day. We paddled north for about an hour to a beach where we were able to go ashore for a brief hike and a snack. We then went under the rail bridge and into Moodna Marsh. The marsh is a quiet, secluded waterway off the main river where we saw a variety of birds who call the marsh home. We paddled as far into the marsh as the tidal flow allowed. Then we turned around it was back south along the shore to the starting point.
DECEMBER 9, 2017
CAMP BULLOWA – 15 Franck Road, Stony Point, NY 10980

PLUNGE DAY SCHEDULE:
11:30 a.m. Arrival/Check in
12:00 p.m. Youth Plunge
12:30 p.m. Adult Plunge
1:00 p.m. Announcements and Recognition
1:30 p.m. Departure

To participate in the plunge:
- Register below as a youth or adult.
  - Youth minimum goal is $25
  - Adult minimum goal is $100
- Set an individual goal, if you wish to raise more than the minimum. Please download the attached fundraising letter and record to track your progress. CLICK HERE
- Please turn in all raised money by mail prior to the event, or in person on the day of the event.

Plunge on December 9th!
- Polar Plunge Donation Letter
- Individual Plunger Donor Record
- HVC Hold Harmless Agreement

for more information contact christian.miller@scouting.org
It’s Coming....

Merit Badge College

Saturday, March 24, 2018

Mark your calendars and Save the Date for the Hudson Valley Council Merit Badge College!

*Merit badges offered, location and schedule to be determined.