

JULY 2024



Steve Hammond  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT



# THE TRIBUTARY

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRGINIA HEADWATERS COUNCIL

Matt Phillippi  
COUNCIL COMMISSIONER



Sue Hart  
SCOUT EXECUTIVE

Virginia Headwaters Council  
(VAHC)

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*From Our Camp Shenandoah Staff*



Cindy Zollman,  
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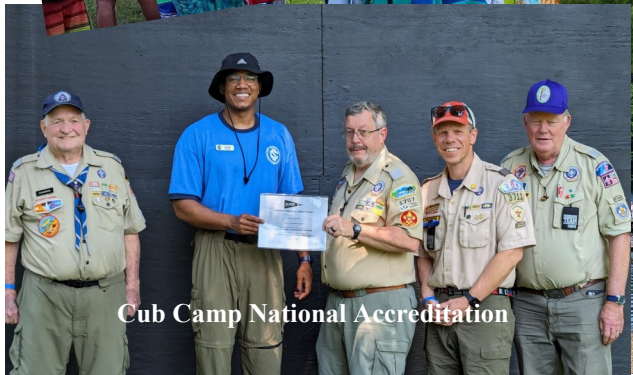
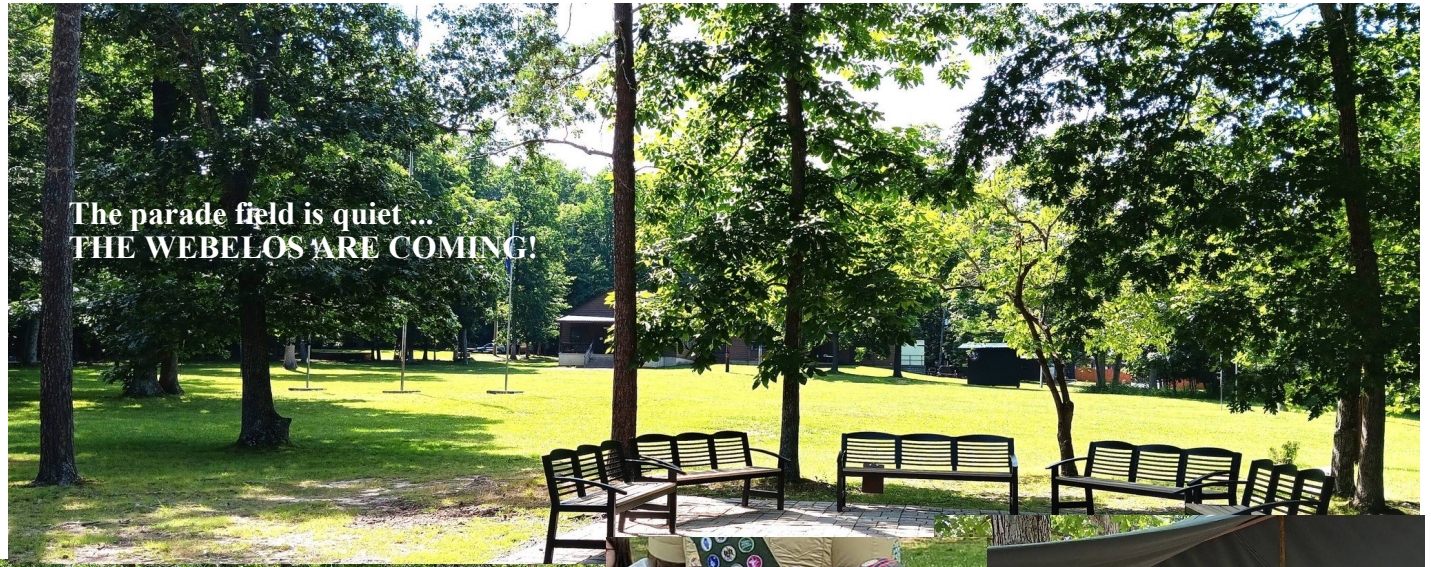




More  
Photos  
In August  
Issue.

Camp Shenandoah - National Accreditation









Summer has arrived in full force. It was a little warm at Cub/Webelos week at Camp Shenandoah. But relief was

available at the waterfront and under the shade. It was a great week with lots of smiling faces. Thanks to all the units that came to Camp. Those that didn't, please plan to attend next year.

As I write this, the first week of Scouts BSA summer camp is ongoing. It is not as hot this week and the Camp is bustling with activity. This year, about 50% of our campers are from other Councils. Conversely less than 50% of our Scouts BSA units attend our Camp. I don't get it. Why are so many units not attending our summer Camp? I can understand wanting to see other Camps, but that doesn't account for the lack of attendance. Some units are not going to any summer camp. Retaining our Scouts helps in our struggle to increase membership. Attending summer camp statistically increases the likelihood of a Scout remaining in the program. Our first-year camper program is second to none. There is an abundance of rank advancement opportunities for the older Scouts. Advancement is another factor in retaining our Scouts. Quite frankly, if your unit is not attending summer camp, they are facing an uphill challenge to continue the program. Scouting is an outdoor program; Scouts want to be outside. An outstanding program and top-notch staff await them at Camp. Plan on "Coming Back to Camp Shenandoah".

I would ask that everyone also plan to have a successful fall recruiting effort. Unit training on best recruiting practices is coming up this summer. Please try to get to that training. Scouting America is a membership organization. If we are not growing, we are not surviving. Larger units provide more fun and activity for our Scouts. If you fear your unit will get too large, please contact the Scout office for assistance. We are always looking to start new units. We have many strong units. Strong units draw

youth. A vibrant outdoor program draws youth. If your unit provides a good program, the youth will come. Let's keep Scouting strong.

On Fridays from 9 to noon, I will be teaching Law Merit badge in the Eppard Shelter at Camp Shenandoah. Please feel free to drop in and participate or just listen. I believe you will find it as rewarding as I do.

Thank you for all that you do for Scouting.

Steve Hammond - Council President  
steve.hammond@hammondtownsend.com  
(cell) 434-962-5813



**Law Merit Badge - Camp Shenandoah**

**STRIVING FOR EAGLE**

**PREPARING FOR LIFE**





I am writing this from the porch of Villa Philmonte at the Philmont Training Center. I can look out and see the Tooth of Time, that iconic image of Philmont Scout Ranch that adorns so much of what we see. This is my first trip out here and I am spending it with over 200 commissioners from all over our organization, learning how we can better serve our Scouts and Scouters. For a long time I was a cynic of the magic this place seemed to have over people, but I certainly get it. This area is amazing and the people that you meet will help inspire you on your Scouting journey. Whether you are going on a trek, taking part in the OA Trail Crew, or here for one of the many training opportunities, I cannot recommend this experience enough.

Summer camp will be in full swing when this comes out and I can't wait to see our volunteers when I visit each Tuesday. It won't take too long for the summer to be over and school start-up is in full swing. You have been doing a fantastic job growing Scouting over the past year and I know we will see fantastic results.

To take my Philmont experience and look forward, commissioner service is being updated to reflect the realities of the current situation in Scouting America and I am excited about this shift. Commissioners have been assessing units for a long time, entering in information about how they perceive the health of the unit. Assessments will be going away, and instead we will be using the information about your unit to have a conversation about how we can help you succeed.

Our role has always been one where we should be helping our units deliver the program but the assessments would muddy those waters, making us seem more like auditors than someone there to help.

This will be a shift for our commissioners and I hope you are able to be patient with us and be willing to

answer when we ask "how can I help?" It is a process that is going to go into the beginning of 2025 before everything is fully in place, but we are going to start planning for it all right now. As one of our National team put it, "commissioners should be in the unit HELP business, not the unit HEALTH business."

I also want to share with you my vision going forward, something they asked us to do in our course: We will build a lasting legacy of unit service for the second century of Scouting in the Virginia Headwaters Council by inviting servant leaders to build enduring relationships with our units to help them deliver quality S.A.F.E. and enriching programs.

That is what our commissioner corps in this council is going to be striving towards. 2027 is our centennial year and I want to make sure we build the culture of commissioner service that our units need to succeed.

Your Friend in Scouting,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Phillippi".

Matt Phillippi - Council Commissioner  
matt.phillippi@virginiaheadwaters.org  
(cell) 540-560-2807

*Be the heart. Build relationships. Change Lives.*



**Electricity Merit Badge - Camp Shenandoah**





Dear Scout Families,

Summer is in full swing, and we've had an incredible Clay Shoot on June 21st at Shenandale Gun Club, supported by our friends at Pepsico. It was a fun-filled day, and despite the heat, the mountain was cool and pleasant for all our volunteers and supporters. The Pepsico team won the overall clay shoot, and Carrie Buckley, with Moffett Paving won the best individual marksman. Congratulations to all the winners!

We are excited about a few upcoming events and hope for additional support this year:

- \* "All in for Scouts" Casino Night at Bluestone Vineyard, sponsored by Sleep on It in Harrisonburg, on September 27th.
- \* Annual Harvest Auction at the Best Western on October 25th, with Hammond and Townsend as a top sponsor.
- \* Zombie Run on October 26th at Camp Shenandoah – we are looking for Scouts to participate as zombies!

With summer in full swing, so is Camp! Cub and Webelos Resident Camp had an increase in participation this year, and thanks to our amazing staff, it was an awesome week! Week one has also had a great and exciting week with a full camp. Camp has never looked so good, and our staff has been incredible. I can't be more thankful for the dedicated team out there.

Looking forward to seeing you at our events and enjoying the rest of the summer!

Yours in Scouting,

Sue Hart  
VAHC Scout Executive  
susan.hart@scouting.org  
(cell) 434-872-3320 (Office) 540-943-6675



Last Friday, the Virginia Headwaters Council hosted an exhilarating **CLAY SHOOT** event, and it was a memorable day for everyone involved. The weather was perfect, creating an ideal backdrop for a day filled with camaraderie and friendly competition.

Participants showcased their marksmanship skills, impressing everyone with their accuracy and enthusiasm. The event was a fantastic opportunity for our community to come together and enjoy a shared passion for outdoor activities.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our amazing volunteers and generous sponsors. Your support and dedication made this event possible and ensured its success.

We're already looking forward to next year's shoot and hope to see even more of our community join in the fun. Stay tuned for more exciting events and activities!



**Thank you to all our 2024 Sponsors**





Well, the dates are announced and the theme is set. There will be a **National Scout Jamboree July 22-31, 2026**, at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. The theme for 2026 will be **ELEVATE**.

- Elevate your **leadership**.
- Elevate your **adrenaline**.
- Elevate your **network (of friends)**.
- Elevate your **impact**.
- Elevate your **service**.
- Elevate your **adventure and fun**.

This will be roughly the same size as the event in 2023 and they have gone through all of the feedback from last year and are working to make it even better in 2026. I highly encourage any Scout interested to start thinking about it now. Registration is going to open up this fall and I expect that it will fill up fast.

I also encourage older youth and adults interested to join the Jamboree Service Team. There will be a reduced rate for JST members and there will be options to staff for the first week, the second week, or for the whole thing.

So head over to [jamboree.scouting.org](https://jamboree.scouting.org) and subscribe to the news alerts to stay in the loop on the developments. Jamboree is one of the ultimate experiences in Scouting and is not something you will want to miss! Be on the lookout for more information in the future.



SHENANDOAH LODGE  
ORDER OF THE ARROW

Scouts and Scouters,

Jolly July!

This past month, Shenandoah Lodge held our first induction weekend of the year: our annual June Inductions. We had over 50 new members join our brotherhood and I have already seen many of them return in service to those who chose them.

Summer Camp has started, and with many Scouts coming to Camp Shenandoah for the first time, we are doing our best to show them what Shenandoah Lodge is about with our OA everyday program.

For the Webelos, we held a ceremony during the Friday night campfire for them to learn about the Order of the Arrow. For Week 1 of Scouts BSA summer camp, we had an excellent medicine bowl (with some shocking secrets revealed), our Brotherhood questioning and ceremony, patch trading, and our call-out ceremony.

I can't wait to see what the rest of summer camp has in store for us.

See you in August!

Yours in WWW,

**Harlow Thompson** | Lodge Chief  
Wingalouchsik Gischihan  
**ORDER OF THE ARROW**  
**SHENANDOAH LODGE #258**  
[chief@shenandoahlodge.org](mailto:chief@shenandoahlodge.org)

**29 July-3 Aug**  
NOAC, UC Boulder

**9-11 August**  
August Induction

**24-25 August**  
Vigil Weekend

**27-29 Sep**  
Lodge Retreat

**2 November**  
Day of Service



**Summer camp is well underway.**

Reviews by Packs and Troops that have been here have been fantastic.

We are now in the 2nd week of "Scout" level camp after having one week of Cubs. The staff has proved

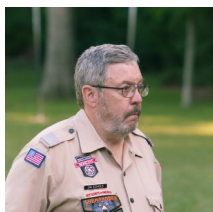
their flexibility and ability to adjust as needed on little more than a moment notice. They are doing a wonderful job.

Robert Clemmer stepped up at the last minute to fill an unexpected vacancy as the Waterfront Director. Give Robert a pat on the back when you see him. Chris Chase has come all of the way from North Carolina to be our Shooting Sports Director. Chris has really added to our program. His knowledge is extensive and he continues to find many ways to help us keep things moving well outside of his responsibilities. Hope we can talk him into returning next year. Nora Potter is doing a great job in her first year as Nature Director. Zack Collins is again leading the Trail to Eagle program. Ben Annan is once again leading the Scoutcraft program. The numbers are huge in some of the Scoutcraft classes, so Ben has a big job. Lucas Chase is leading the Timber Mountain (first year camper) program with wonderful assistance from Nick Hoagland. JJ Obenschain is leading the Handicraft Program. Emily Reisinger is doing a wonderful job with our welding class.

There are many others doing great work that I have not listed. I am impressed with this staff. This is the hardest working staff I have seen in my six years working at Scout Camp.

We have two weeks left, so if people are still looking for a Scout Camp, I know a great one. We always welcome everyone home to Camp Shenandoah. If you know someone that would be good for Camp Staff next summer, please have them look at the Virginia Headwaters web page. We are already accepting applications.

Yours in Scouting,  
*Jim Echols*, Camp Director

**Scouts want to go to camp Shenandoah.**

The past two weeks, the staff has gone above and beyond to provide a safe, fun, quality experience for cub scouts, families, scouts, and scouters.

We are in the last half of our summer camp season and excited for all the folks who will be coming back home in the next couple of weeks.

We want to thank the leaders who have been helping this summer. Our staff is doing a lot but there is plenty support amongst the leadership in our council. Thanks to all those who are making a difference.

If you haven't had a chance to make it to camp this summer, there is still time to visit, meet our amazing staff, and maybe lend a hand with the variety of projects we have.

Folks at camp are already talking about next year - the 75th anniversary of Camp Shenandoah. We are working to make this summer special, building excitement for next year's anniversary.

If you are interested in helping this summer or being a part of our 75th anniversary summer, please reach out to Robert Clemmer at [robert.clemmer@scouting.org](mailto:robert.clemmer@scouting.org).

Robert Clemmer,  
Camp Director/Aquatics  
[robert.clemmer@scouting.org](mailto:robert.clemmer@scouting.org)  
540-292-2391 (cell)







### Popcorn and Peanuts Virtual Kickoff July 28, 2024

Invitations will be emailed to leaders ahead of time. Pecatonica River Popcorn and Whitley's Peanuts will be our vendors for this season! Each unit attending the kickoff will receive additional commission for their unit. If you have any questions in the meantime, contact Shane Eppard ([shane763@hotmail.com](mailto:shane763@hotmail.com)) or Anne Blair ([hwanganne@hotmail.com](mailto:hwanganne@hotmail.com)).







# MOUNTAIN VALLEY District

District Chair: Dr. Carey Usher

District Commissioner: Jim Echols

Dr. Carey Usher: [cusher3@comcast.net](mailto:cusher3@comcast.net)

Jim Echols: [jeechols@verizon.net](mailto:jeechols@verizon.net)

District Director - Robert Clemmer: [robert.clemmer@scouting.org](mailto:robert.clemmer@scouting.org)

Dear Mountain Valley District Scouters,

Greetings from Summer Camp! We hope all of you are enjoying your summer activities and making plans for your back-to-school and fall recruitment! Believe it or not, many of our district Scouts start back to school in just over 1 month. If you have not begun planning your recruitment activities, please reach out to our Membership Chair Lewis Kingston at [lewiskingston@hotmail.com](mailto:lewiskingston@hotmail.com) for assistance. We have more opportunities to maximize our exposure and visibility coming right up!

\* If your unit will march in the Staunton "Happy Birthday America" parade on July 4, use the QR code below to sign up with us!

\* If your unit is interested in helping with setup and recruitment at the Balloons Over Rockbridge hot air balloon and music festival on July 6-7, use the same QR code below to sign up!

\* If your unit is interested in recruiting with the Rockbridge Community Festival on August 24, use the same QR code below to sign up!



Our district Merit Badge University is scheduled for August 3 at Blue Ridge Community College, have your Scouts submit information at the QR code below, and contact Drs. Whitehurst (540-487-3898) or Kenée ([endodave@comcast.net](mailto:endodave@comcast.net)) if you would like to serve as a Merit Badge Counselor.



Unit leaders, please get those Ball Drop tickets sold for our fundraiser, if you need more tickets you can contact me directly ([cusher3@comcast.net](mailto:cusher3@comcast.net)). Remember, tickets are only \$5 per ball, and the payout is \$1000! Ball Drop happens on September 16 at Lexington Golf & Country Club.

In other exciting news, planning for our Mountain Valley District spring camporee is underway, thanks to our Program Committee for mapping out new programs to serve our 7 county district! And speaking of camping – we would like to send a shoutout and HUGE thanks to our Camp Shenandoah leaders and staff members for continuing to provide lifelong memories for our Scouting youth! Summer camp is not just fun and games – the development and growth we see in our youth is phenomenal, it's transformative, and we are so grateful to our Camp Shenandoah staff for guiding them in their journey!

Finally, I would like to send a huge welcome out to our newly formed and forming units here in Mountain Valley! New unit shout outs to Troop (G) 1162 and Crew 0162 in Pendleton WV, Pack 61 in Harrisonburg VA, and Crew 84 in Stuarts Draft VA. Welcome to Mountain Valley, welcome home!

Yours In Scouting,

Dr. Carey Usher,  
District Chair  
[cusher3@comcast.net](mailto:cusher3@comcast.net)







# MOUNTAIN VALLEY District

District Chair: Dr. Carey Usher

District Commissioner: Jim Echols

**MOUNTAIN VALLEY DISTRICT**  
09 · 16 · 2024  
**MONDAY**

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
VIRGINIA HEADWATERS COUNCIL • BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

MORNING SESSION: 8AM / TEE-OFF: 9AM    AFTERNOON SESSION: 12:00 W/ LUNCH / TEE-OFF: 1:45PM

1ST PLACE: \$400  
2ND PLACE: \$300  
3RD PLACE: \$200

**LEXINGTON GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB**  
141 COUNTRY CLUB RD, LEXINGTON, VA 24450

**\$250 FOURSOME** INCLUDES FEES, LUNCH, MULLIGAN, CART, & TEAM DROP-BALL

**VAHCBSA.ORG/GOLF**  
CONTACT: 540-460-4832 | CEDARSPRINGZ@COM

## MOUNTAIN VALLEY GOLF TOURNAMENT

SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

Lexington Golf & Country Club

GET YOUR BOOK OF DROP BALL TICKETS NOW!

SELL THE WINNING TICKET AND RECEIVE \$100

Cindy Zollman  
(540-460-4832)





## **Join Scout Night Training**

### **Everyone is INVITED!**

**Successful  
Joining Nights  
Don't Just Happen.  
They're Planned!**



**When:** Wednesday, July 10, 2024

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** online

Register at <https://scoutingevent.com/763-86149#>

**Email:** [membership@virginiaheadwaters.org](mailto:membership@virginiaheadwaters.org)





# MONTICELLO District

District Chair: Ed Murphy

District Commissioner: Mike Bonham

Ed Murphy: [emm8xuva@gmail.com](mailto:emm8xuva@gmail.com)

Mike Bonham: [mike@eqros.com](mailto:mike@eqros.com)

Scout Executive - Sue Hart: [susan.hart@scouting.org](mailto:susan.hart@scouting.org)

Since many of our units are off at Camp, the Monticello District will not hold a Roundtable in July nor will we hold district meetings this month.

Monticello District Roundtable will be in person on August 1, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the American Legion, 3025 Louisa Road, in Keswick. For Scouts BSA units, we will focus on how to hold an open house to help Arrow of Light Scouts satisfy their new Bobcat requirements. Our Cub Scout breakout session will focus on recruiting new adult leaders while recruiting new Cub Scouts. We will also have an update on Popcorn and Peanut sales.

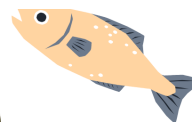
District Commissioners Meeting - August 21, 2024 6:30-7:30 pm at the American Legion, 3025 Louisa Road, Keswick. Are you willing to use your Scouting leadership experience to help other units? If so, please consider volunteering to be a Commissioner. You can contact our District Commissioner Mike Bonham at [mike@eqros.com](mailto:mike@eqros.com) <<mailto:mike@eqros.com>> for more information, or attend the District Commissioners Meeting to learn how to help our fellow Scouters through the Commissioner Service.

District Committee Meeting - August 21, 2024 7:30-9:00 pm at the American Legion, 3025 Louisa Road, Keswick. The District Committee is looking for volunteers to help support our program, training, membership, fundraising, special events, and awards committees. Contact Ed Murphy at [emm8xuva@gmail.com](mailto:emm8xuva@gmail.com) <<mailto:emm8xuva@gmail.com>> for more information or attend the District Committee Meeting to learn how to help.

The Monticello District maintains an email list of all registered adult leaders using a Google Group. If you are not receiving emails from the monticello-

[bsa@googlegroups.com](mailto:bsa@googlegroups.com) <<mailto:monticello-bsa@googlegroups.com>> email list, please contact Ed Murphy at [emm8xuva@gmail.com](mailto:emm8xuva@gmail.com) <<mailto:emm8xuva@gmail.com>> to be added to the list. The District Committee uses the email list to keep leaders informed. The District also maintains an active Facebook page Monticello District, VAHC

## Council wide Event for Cubs



**Save the Date!!!**



**Fall Cub Camporee**



**Camp Shenandoah**

**September 20-22**







# MONTICELLO District

District Chair: Ed Murphy

District Commissioner: Mike Bonham

Ed Murphy: [emm8xuva@gmail.com](mailto:emm8xuva@gmail.com)

Mike Bonham: [mike@eqros.com](mailto:mike@eqros.com)

Scout Executive - Sue Hart: [susan.hart@scouting.org](mailto:susan.hart@scouting.org)

## Troop 1028 Found Mud in the Pasture

by Toy Andrews, Scoutmaster Troop 1028 (M)

Just a week after the “May the Forest Be With You” camporee, Troop 1028 went out to the Bridgewater, VA to enjoy some time underground with Wild Guyde Adventures, LLC. Our personal guide, Aaron Zook, made the experience memorable and muddy for everyone that went out to meet in a cow pasture. One of our Scouters, Audrey Storm and the Scoutmaster, Toy Andrews, joined the team as headlamps lit the way through the tunnels.



Some of the trekking in the dark was a bit of a physical challenge with climbing and holding onto the side of the rock walls to limit the decent down into a the network of connected passageways, so afterwards we were ready for a



long ride back to Charlottesville.

Troop 1028 really enjoyed going out with a local caving expert team and talked it up so much afterwards,

that we’re already planning our next venture underground. Best quote of the event was the following meeting where we ask for “Roses and Thorns” of an event where one of our newest Scouts, Vincent K. said, “My rose is that I go really, really muddy, my thorn is that I didn’t get muddy enough.”





## Cub and Webelos/AOL Resident Camp



Thank you to the staff and volunteers for a  
great time! See you next year!



# VIRGINIA HEADWATERS COUNCIL TRAINING

*Growing Lifelong Leaders*



## Have a great NYLT!

Best of luck to Course Director Beth Coogan-Golden and her entire National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) Staff. Wishing you all the best as you embark on your NYLT journey. May it be a time of growth, learning, and unforgettable experiences.

## Mark Your Calendars

16 NOV 2024

Blue Ridge Community College



VAHC will be hosting a University of Scouting on November 16, 2024 at Blue Ridge Community College. More information coming soon.



## Wood Badge

### Save The Dates

26-28 SEP and 18-19 OCT 2025

The next VAHC Wood Badge course will be in the Fall of 2025. Consider being a part of the experience that equips you with the tools and knowledge to lead with confidence. You'll gain invaluable skills to serve our Council's youth, forge strong connections, and create memories that will inspire you for years to come.





### Interested in being on Wood Badge Staff?

Are you interested in serving your fellow Scouters as staff member? The Council Training Chair will maintain a list of interested Wood Badgers to provide to each Course Director for consideration. If you're interested, please fill out the Staff Interest Form at <https://forms.gle/czs5wL5KETxRJWy97>. (Expressing interest does not guarantee selection.)

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### How can we help you continue growing as a leader?

Do you prefer in-person training, or maybe a virtual option, over computer-based training? Would you like to set up a training date for your entire unit? Email [training@virginiaheadwaters.org](mailto:training@virginiaheadwaters.org) and we'll see what we can work out.

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## Save the Date for JOTA/JOTI! Jamboree On the Air & Jamboree On the Internet 18 – 20 October 2024

More information in next month's Tributary about our Virginia Headwaters Council Event!



<https://www.jotajoti.info/>



# SCOUT NIGHT

## WITH THE *FredNats*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17TH @ 7:05PM



### NIGHT INCLUDES:

- ⚾ Ceremonial first pitch for a representative
- ⚾ Pre-game parade on field
- ⚾ \$5 Scout Night patch available to purchase
- ⚾ Discounted tickets and food voucher
- ⚾ Opportunity to participate in Scooby Doo Night and a post-game jersey auction
- ⚾ Post-game sleepover on field

**Join your friends at the ballpark and experience a night of fun!**

**Scout Night offers the ability to catch a FredNats game with friends, participate in a pre-game parade, and camp out on the field after the game!**



**For more information, contact Claire Beccaccio at [cbeccaccio@frednats.com](mailto:cbeccaccio@frednats.com) or (540) 681-1536**

**Follow the FredNats: @fxbgnats**

