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Welcome to the Muir Newsletter for April 2020!



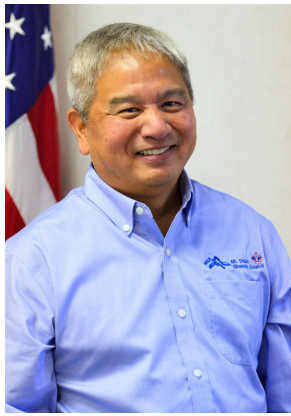
April 2, 2020 District Roundtable CANCELLED

The Roundtable scheduled for April 2 is **CANCELLED**. The safety of our members is always a top priority of our organization.

We will keep everyone updated on the next meetings as soon as we deem it appropriate and safe to conduct them.

If you have any questions, please contact Sheila Rowntree - District Chair, rowntreesheila@att.net

Thank you for your understanding.



Our Muir District Professional

Reminder: Alan Young, is our Muir District Director!

Alan has an extensive Scouting background going back as a youth where he earned the rank of Eagle Scout and the Order of the Arrow Vigil honor. In addition to serving the Muir and Diablo Sunrise districts, Alan's other responsibilities includes staff adviser for the Shooting Sports, and STEM committees.

Alan's contact email is alan.young@scouting.org. His office number is (925) 674-6102.



A Word from our Chair
District Camporee is CANCELLED

Greetings Muir District,

We hope that those in your units are communicating, taking care of each other, and advancing. Due to the current health conditions, **we will be canceling the spring camporee**. We are sorry to do this, but the health of all is important to us.

Yours in Scouting,

Sheila Rowntree
Muir District Chair
Mt Diablo Silverado Council, BSA
rowntreesheila@att.net



Commissioner's Minute

Below is a list of Commissioner Positions that you can volunteer for in the District. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested or have any questions!

Round Table Commissioners: Roundtable commissioners are responsible for the monthly Roundtable in the district. Roundtables are monthly meetings where scout leaders from all units attend. When skillfully executed, the roundtable experience will inspire, motivate, and enable unit leaders to provide a stronger program for their youth. There are two main purposes of Roundtables. First, to provide the skill to do – skills, techniques, information, program ideas – the know-how that makes for a successful unit. And second; to provide unit leadership with the will to do – the morale, enthusiasm, inspiration, and vision that periodically renews the desire to serve youth. Major responsibilities include: COMMISSIONER MANUALS: SECTION TITLE JUNE 2018 4

- Recruit and train a staff of Assistant Roundtable commissioners to put on quality roundtables for unit personnel.
- Plan and conduct monthly roundtable programs using the National roundtable guidelines.
- Make arrangements for roundtables, including meeting places, equipment and supplies.
- Conduct regular critiques to determine how roundtables can be improved.
- Use Commissioner Tools to enter roundtable attendance.

Unit Commissioner: Many unit commissioners serve more than one type of unit. One might serve a Cub Scout pack, a Scouts BSA troop, Venturing crew, Sea Scout ship or an Explorer post in the same chartered organization. Other unit commissioners may serve only packs, only troops, only crews, only ships or only posts or clubs. Check with your commissioner leader or coach to see how your district is organized. The unit commissioner is a Scouting generalist whose passionate overriding mission in Scouting is to help units better serve more youth through scouting. Specific responsibilities COMMISSIONER MANUALS: SECTION TITLE JUNE 2018 3 include just 5 things. Listed under each are suggested methods for accomplishing the responsibility.

1. Supporting unit growth and retention through the Journey to Excellence.
 - a. Use the Unit Service Plan to help guide units to continuous improvement.
2. Making meaningful unit contacts that capture in commissioner tools their strengths, needs, and a unit service plan that enables continuing improvement.
 - a. Serve as the unit leader's friend and coach.
 - b. Offer encouragement and support.
 - c. Use a detailed collaborative assessment with the unit's leaders at least two times per year to review the unit's strengths and needs.
 - d. Create a Unit Service Plan based on the detailed collaborative assessment.
3. Linking unit needs to district operating committee and other resources.
 - a. Use members of the district operating committees to help meet the needs of your unit(s). As a unit commissioner you are not expected to know everything.
 - b. The district operating committee can provide access to subject matter experts who can address the unit's specific need.
 - c. Engage other resources (for example; from another unit) when needed.
4. Supporting timely unit, district, and council charter renewals.
 - a. Facilitate the on-time annual charter renewal of all assigned units using Internet Rechartering or the traditional paper rechartering method.
 - b. See that a completed charter renewal application is returned to the council service center.
 - c. Present the new charter at an appropriate meeting of the chartered organization.
5. Supporting unit leaders by delivering effective roundtables that provide program ideas relationship development, and timely communication.
 - a. Unit commissioner can promote roundtable attendance in their assign units.

Assistant District Commissioner: A district may have one or more assistant district commissioners. Each is responsible for an assigned share of the units in the district and the unit commissioners who serve those units. Assistant district commissioners are often assigned a geographic area of the district. They work closely with the district commissioner and district executive. Major responsibilities include:

- Become familiar with the vision the district commissioner has created and understand your role in fulfilling the vision.
- Recruit enough unit commissioners to serve their assigned units and area.
- Conduct personal coaching and orientation sessions for unit commissioners.
- Maintain regular contact with their unit commissioners to provide guidance in unit service needs.
- Meet with their team of unit commissioners at the monthly district commissioner meeting to plan specific actions to help units be more successful.
- Serve units with no assigned unit commissioner.

- Help unit commissioners evaluate and improve their unit service performance.
- Assist unit commissioners in using Commissioner Tools, including adding entries for commissioners who are unable to add their own.
- Track charter renewal status of all their units.
- Use Commissioner Tools to review the health of the units; review commissioner activity in recording contacts and creating unit service plans; and monitor roundtable attendance.
- Be sure to recognize the accomplishments of the commissioners in your charge.

Thank you, Yours in Scouting,
Paul Steelhammer
Muir District Commissioner
Mt Diablo Silverado Council, BSA
(925) 348-2985
PaulSteelhammer.MDC@gmail.com

Muir District Camporee CANCELLED

- The safety of our members is always a top priority of our organization. In light of recent events, the Muir District Camporee that was scheduled for April 24 - 26, 2020 at the Sugarloaf Open Space **is cancelled this year**. Thank you for your understanding.
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Muir District Dinner POSTPONED

This was announced on 3/11/2020

- The safety of our members is always a top priority of our organization. In light of recent events, the Muir District Recognition Dinner scheduled for March 21, 2020 at the Concord Senior Center **has been postponed to a later date**. A new date will be posted as soon as we deem it appropriate and safe to conduct the event. Thank you for your understanding.
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Friends of Scouting 2020

We need your help! Nearly all our operational funding comes from Friends of Scouting each Spring, with the need to cancel in person meetings, we understand that donating to Scouting may be the furthest from your mind, however, we need YOU to help make sure our Scouts have the same program we know and love to come back to. Please consider a donation to ensure our program survives.
<https://www.mdscbsa.org/donate2020/>

Muir District Facebook Page

For updates on what's happening in the Muir District, please join our Facebook Group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/325497627480390/?ref=bookmarks>

Resources from BSA for Activities to do at Home

1. COVID-19 FAQ's

https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus/covid-19-faq/?utm_source=scoutingwire&utm_campaign=swvolunteer3252020&utm_medium=email&utm_content=

2. Merit Badges for Social Distancing

https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/03/20/merit-badges-for-social-distancing/?utm_source=scoutingwire&utm_campaign=swvolunteer3252020&utm_medium=email&utm_content=

3. Projects for kids that you can do at home

https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/03/19/fun-projects-for-kids-that-you-can-do-from-home/?utm_source=scoutingwire&utm_campaign=swvolunteer3252020&utm_medium=email&utm_content=



This was announced on 3/16/2020.

To Our Scouting Community:

In this unprecedented time the Mt. Diablo Silverado Council (MDSC) wants each one of you to know that you, your families and your extended network of colleagues and friends are of our utmost concern. Under the order of the Health Officer of Contra Costa County we are asking all units to cease its meetings and activities through April 7, 2020. The Council Service Center will remain closed to the public through that date as well. The professional staff is still here to serve you and you may contact them through their office lines and they will receive it as their desk phones are all set to forward to their cell phones. The staff will also be available to respond via email to your needs. Please subscribe to our Facebook page and check out our website www.mdscbsa.org for the latest information from your council.

All applications and Eagle paperwork we assume will be approved for an automatic extension from our National Office and will work with them to make it so.

If you are able to make a Friends of Scouting donation to keep the essential services of Scouting running you may donate

at: <https://www.mdscbsa.org/donate2020/>

Further, MDSC will honor requests for refund for Camp Wolfeboro and Day Camp. We also will be postponing the deadline for Camp Wolfeboro Payments until April 30th. Additionally, Day Camp late fees are waived for those who wish to register for the summer. After this drastic change in our youth's lives this Spring it is imperative, we do what we can to give them a fun and safe summer.

Districts are encouraged to reschedule their activities currently scheduled through May 11, 2020 to this fall. Camp Herms will also have its drive-in gate closed at least through April 7, 2020.

As Scouts we are expected to be leaders in our community, we need to obey the laws and regulations that have been put in place to protect our community.

Utilize virtual methods to conduct your business – Facebook Live can be used through unit and District web pages to communicate. You are also able to correspond with Merit Badge Counselors or your Den Leaders to earn achievements. While the current situation represents a change from or normal operations standard it presents an opportunity for us to break out of our comfort zone and embrace new ways of delivering the promise of Scouting to one another.

Thank you all for what you do to support our community through Scouting, we all benefit from your involvement.

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This was announced on 3/18/2020.

To our Scouting community,

In Scouting, we vow to help other people at all times. Now, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Scouting community must do its part to slow the spread of the virus, which will save lives and avoid overwhelming our local healthcare infrastructure.

The safety of Scouts, volunteers, employees and our communities is our top priority.

With safety in mind and based on guidance from national health officials, **the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is strongly advising that in-person meetings, activities, events and gatherings of 10 or more people be suspended through the end of March.** Please also follow any restrictions outlined by your state and local health department or other state and local authorities. This applies to youth and adults out of an abundance of caution.

In accordance with national guidelines, please focus on the following through the end of March:

- Avoid in-person gatherings; instead, utilize available digital and online resources, such as video conferencing, to continue Scouting meetings, projects and advancement, adhering to the current youth protection guidelines already in place for digital communications.
 - If you must meet, limit participants to fewer than 10 people and remain at least six feet apart.
 - Follow BSA blogs and social channels, as well as #ScoutingAtHome, for great examples and ideas of how to continue Scouting.
- If you or any member of your family feel sick, DO NOT go into the office or attend any gatherings. Contact your health professional to get care and notify your supervisor so they can take the appropriate measures while you focus on recuperating.

We will continue to evaluate the ongoing situation and prioritize the safety of everyone involved in Scouting – youth, families, volunteers, employees and our communities – is our number one priority.

We realize these decisions are not without their challenges, and we thank you for helping meet the needs of our communities in difficult times.

The steps we are taking reinforce the many ways – big and small – that Scouting empowers character and leadership today and for generations to come.

Yours in Scouting,

Roger C. Mosby
President and CEO



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ALL BSA TRAINING IS ONLINE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters. To be registered as TRAINED in your role you need to complete the following courses

- Scoutmaster/ Assistant Scoutmaster Position Training
- Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills
- Hazardous Weather
- YPT Youth Protections

HAZARDOUS WEATHER TRAINING

Please take or update your training before your first outdoor or camping activity.

Since April 2018 BSA has required adult volunteer direct-contact leaders in all outdoor programs to take the NEW (April 2018) *Hazardous Weather Training* (SCO_800). This training is [available online](https://www.mdscbsa.org/hazardous-weather-training/).
<https://www.mdscbsa.org/hazardous-weather-training/>

This change affects [basic position-specific leader training](#) for:

- Cub Scouting (Cubmaster, Assistant Cubmaster, Den Leader, Assistant Den Leader)
- Scouts BSA (Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster)
- Venturing (Crew Advisor and Associate Advisor)
- Sea Scouts BSA (all Adult Leaders)
- Exploring (Advisor and Associate Advisor)

Save the Date: Muir-Briones Day Camp 2020 – July 6-10

(This event is TBD)

Muir-Briones Day Camp is looking for key staff volunteers for 2020.

- Day Camp Director (Sept 2019 – July 2020)
- Communications Coordinator (Sept 2019 – July 2020)
- Volunteer Coordinator (April 2020-July 2020)
- Food Service Manager (June 2020-July 2020)

Descriptions:

Day Camp Director – Reports to the District Executive (staff member of the council), Must attend Camp School (Training which is good for 5 years), Is part of the Council Day Camp committee that meets once a month on the 3rd Monday of the month, has overall responsibility for Day Camp, Supervise the volunteer personnel and operating details of the camp.

Pre-Camp Duties: Prepares camp budget, Locate and Secure Camp Location (location Agreement), hold meetings with key staff, pack reps and troop reps, opens up camp registration on Jan 1, conducts Volunteer training, updates standards binder, Orders supplies, puts together daily prize program and orders prizes. Assigns scouts to dens based on rank, tries to keep scouts from the same pack same rank in a den together.

During Camp: Accreditation including show the accreditation team around camp, answers questions, goes over Day Camp binder. Supervises set and take down of camp, leads the opening and closing ceremonies along with Program Director, Daily prize program and takes care of problems arising at camp.

Communications Coordinator - Promotes day camp attendance and volunteer recruiting at: Roundtables, Pack meetings, Troop Meetings, Schools, Newspapers/Social Media/On-Line News. Communication with Parents about camp including hours, sign-in, pick-up, what to bring, what is expected. Unexpired current Youth Protection Certificate
Fill out an Adult Application if not registered with you Pack, Troop or Crew.

Volunteer Coordinator – Assigns adult and Jr. Helpers to tasks at camp. Collects volunteer paper work including, medical forms, shooting forms, Youth Protection, leaders guide signature, Adult Applications and Youth Applications for Jr. Helpers (if not already registered).

Food Service Manager - This person needs a food handler's card and will be responsible for camp kitchen. Duties include picking up donated fruit and Veggie's on Saturday before camp, Pick up (buying) popcorn and snow cone supplies as need from Cash and Carry, picking up (buying) hot dog lunch supplies at Sam Club on Thursday night of camp, Picking up (buying with donated gift cards) volunteer breakfast items from Safeway. You will be supervising kitchen volunteers with coffee and hot water making, preparing veggies and fruit, popping popcorn, making snow cones, washing and sanitizing dishes and machines.

Leave No Trace Trainer Courses (The May 30-31, 2020 Training event is TBD)

Check out this flyer for the LNT Trainer courses that MDSC Outdoor Ethics Committee is offering this year! The Spring Course will be May 30-31, 2020 at the Skyline Wilderness Park in Napa, and the Fall Course will be October 17-18, 2020 at Camp Herms.



Outdoor Ethics - Leave No Trace Trainer Class May 30-31, 2020 Skyline Wilderness Park in Napa October 17-18, 2020 at Camp Herms

Participants in this 16 hour (plus an overnight) **LNT Trainer Course** learn about **Leave No Trace, TREAD Lightly! and Wildland Ethics** including teaching techniques necessary for disseminating these critical **Outdoor Ethics** skills to their Scouting units.

At the completion of the course, all participants will be recognized by the **Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics** as Leave No Trace Trainers and qualified to train Scouts and the community-at-large to be conservation minded.

This course is open to adults and youth (Scouts BSA or Venturers) who are at least age 14 by the first day of class if they are currently registered with the BSA. Completion of this course is highly recommended for Scouts who wish to hold the **Outdoor Ethics Guide** position of responsibility and for unit leaders who want to implement Outdoor Ethics effectively within their unit.

The LNT Trainer course will run from 8:00 a.m. Saturday through 1 pm Sunday. The "early bird" price is \$35 through Friday, 8 days before the course and \$45.00 thereafter with a maximum of 20 participants. Refunds for elective cancellation are 70 to 80% per Council policy; no elective refunds are available the last week before a course. Register on line at <https://scoutingevent.com/023-LNTT2020> and select the course (May or October) you want to register for. Registrants will receive further details by email.

This course will be entirely outdoors, in a quasi backpacking format involving an overnight campout and a day hike. Participants will plan, bring and cook their own meals and each participant will be required to give a ten minute presentation using the skills they have learned and materials they prepared before the course. Learn more about Leave No Trace at www.lnt.org.

Questions can be directed to Lillian Remer, course director, at remer@astound.net.



Working on Eagle? Here are your contacts:

District Advancement Chair: Bill Spalding: 925-586-9136, spaldingwilliam62@gmail.com

District Eagle Project Approval: Carl Bodin: 415-816-7307, cbodin@usa.net

District Communications Contact

If you would like to contribute items to the Muir Newsletter or the Muir Facebook Page or Instagram, please contact **Patrick Jaime**, patrickj0208@yahoo.com by the *21st of every month* so that it can be added to the outgoing newsletters.

District Committee Leadership

- **Alan Young** - District Director, alan.young@scouting.org
- **Sheila Rowntree** - District Chair, rowntreesheila@att.net
- **Paul Steelhammer** - District Commissioner, PaulSteelhammer.MDC@gmail.com

Want to change how you receive these emails? You are receiving this newsletter because you have a Scout, you are a registered leader, or you are interested in Scouting events in the Concord, Clayton, Martinez, or Pacheco areas. **Please do not unsubscribe! This is your source for valuable information on Scouting in the Muir District as well as for the Mt. Diablo Silverado Council.** If you have any questions or concerns regarding the newsletter, please contact **Patrick Jaime**, patrickj0208@yahoo.com. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please reply to this email and Patrick will take you off the District email list. If you unsubscribe yourself, you will not receive any communications from Council, and we don't want that to happen.



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