

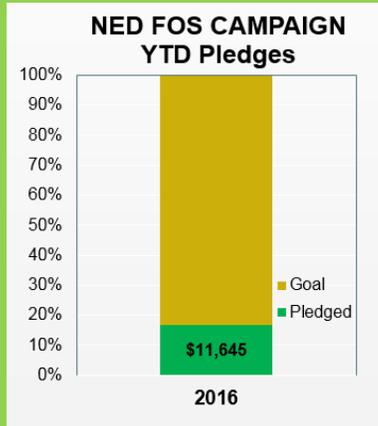


# The Northeast District Monthly Gazette

A Publication of the Crossroads of America Council, BSA – Northeast District

"All the News...That Is News...for Pack, Troop & Crew Leadership in the Northeast District"

## Follow Us On...



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### In the Next 30 Days

- Dec 17, 2015 (6:30 PM)  
NED OA/Firecrafter Mtgs
- Dec 31, 2015  
2015 Unit Charters Expire
- Jan 8-10, 2016  
OA Winter Gathering
- Jan 9, 2016 (2 – 5 PM)  
[WD9BSA On-the-Air](#)
- Jan 10, 2016 (3:30 PM)  
NED Eagle BoRs
- Jan 13, 2016  
NED Award Nominations Due
- Jan 13, 2016 (7:00 PM)  
NED Roundtables

### In the Next 60 Days

- Jan 16, 2016  
[CAC University of Scouting](#)
- Jan 20, 2016 (7:00 PM)  
NED Committee Mtg
- Feb 3, 2016 (7:00 PM)  
NED Commissioners Mtg.
- Feb 7, 2016 (3:30 PM)  
NED Eagle BoRs
- Feb 10, 2016 (7:00 PM)  
NED Recognition Dinner
- Feb 13, 2016 (2 – 5 PM)  
[WD9BSA On-the-Air](#)

## Northeast District Silver Beaver Award Winners Announced

The Silver Beaver Award is the council-level distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. Recipients of this award are registered adult leaders who have made an impact on the lives of youth through service given to the council. This year, Crossroads of America Council, BSA will present 15 Silver Beaver Awards at the University of Scouting's luncheon on Saturday, January 16, 2016. Three recipients are from the Northeast District! Are you interested to learn more about our adult leaders being honored?...[read more](#)

## You Won't Want to Miss This Year' University of Scouting Event

Have you ever said "I really need to complete my required position-specific Scout training, but can't find a course", or "I wish I knew how other Packs/Troops/Crews address this issue, but can't figure out who to call?" You're in luck! This year's [University of Scouting](#) is your one-stop-shop to get everything you need from required training to advice from other units...[read more](#)

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Do you have a personal "bucket list"? If you have one and it doesn't contain backpacking at Philmont with your son(s) and/or daughter(s), you will have the opportunity to change that! Keep checking the Crossroads of America website because the Council will be opening registration soon for crews going to Philmont in 2017. Do you want more incentive to join your son(s) and/or daughter(s) on this upcoming trek...read on and learn about our own Council Scout Executive, Patrick Sterrett's Trip of a Lifetime!....[read more](#)

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Are you looking for the perfect day trip during winter? This month's NED Outdoor Experience Exchange will give you the "swish-down" on a local ski/snowboarding/tubing area that is only a short hour and a half drive away from Indianapolis...[read more](#)

### **In the Next 90 Days**

- Feb 17, 2016 (7:00 PM)  
NED Committee Mtg
- Mar 1, 2016  
[Camp Card Sales Begin](#)
- Mar 1, 2016 (7:00 PM)  
NED Commissioners Mtg
- Mar 6, 2016 (3:30 PM)  
NED Eagle BoRs
- Mar 9, 2016 (7:00 PM)  
NED Roundtables
- Mar 12, 2016 (2– 5 PM)  
WD9BSA On-the-Air

### **Who Can I Contact**

*Do you have feedback on the current issue?*

*Do you have ideas for news items in a future issue of*

***The Northeast District Monthly Gazette?***

Contact: [Mike Chambers](#)

## **Northeast District Silver Beaver Award Winners Announced**

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### **FRANK BLUM**

Frank Blum began his experiences in scouting as a boy in 1970, and exemplifies all points of the Scout Law to the highest degree. Always a willing, dedicated, and capable participant or leader in helping to get things done, he has served as an adult in four districts of the Council: Del-Mi, Trailblazer, Pathfinder, and Northeast, since 1975, and has held such positions as Assistant Scoutmaster, camp staff member, Scoutmaster, Webelos Den Leader, Unit Commissioner, Assistant District Commissioner, Explorer and Venture Crew leader, Merit Badge Counselor and for the past eight years, has been coordinator of the Stamp Collecting Merit Badge Seminar. A member of the Catholic committee on Scouting, Frank has coordinated retreats for the youth of our Council. He is active in his church in many capacities, working with both youth and adults. He has worked with youth in the 4-H program as well. In 1986, he was awarded the District Award of Merit from Trailblazer District, the Bronze Pelican for his contribution to Catholic scouting, and received the Vigil Honor for the Order of the Arrow. He is currently the Awards and Advancement chairman for Pack 427 as well as the Charter Organization Representative for Troop and Pack 686 in Northeast District. Frank has given extraordinary service to the Boys Scouts of America.



### **TIM GEORGE**

Tim George has served the youth of the Northeast District in many capacities. He started his involvement with Scouting as an active dad with Troop 133, helping with outings and merit badge completion. Under his tutelage, Tim helped his son and approximately 40 other Scouts reach the rank of Eagle. After his son completed Eagle rank, Tim broadened his commitment to Scouts by serving with the Northeast District. As District Finance Chair from 2010-11, he orchestrated the inaugural Lawrence Mayor's Breakfast for Scouting, creating a prototype for future fundraising breakfasts. He continued with service as Northeast District Vice Chair and then as Chair. Under his leadership, the Northeast District reached Silver Level JTE in 2013, followed by Gold in 2014. Tim actively recruited more than 20 new members onto the District Committee, and restructured the committee to enhance efficiency. Under his leadership, the Friends of Scouting campaign in the Northeast District increased by 71%. Tim led the District to regain full access to the Lawrence Township Schools, after more than a decade of no access. This coupled with a new membership strategy for growth in 2015 saw significant increases in Scouting across the District. Beyond Scouts, Tim lends his leadership skills to several other community organizations, most notably the Washington Township Schools Foundation and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful Inc. - A two-time board member of the Washington Township Schools Foundation, Tim helped negotiate a successful merger between the Foundation and the North Central Alumni Association. This merger ensured long-term sustainability of both organizations. Tim applies his knowledge as an environmental engineer to his board leadership with Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB) and has helped coordinate KIB volunteer days with both his workplace colleague and with Scouts. Tim helped establish a financial strategy for the KIB finance committee, additionally securing contributions from others in his field; and currently is in consideration for the KIB board chairman position. In summary, Tim blends natural leadership skills with compassion, intelligence and financial savvy to improve his local Scouting organization, the community at large and surrounding environs.



## JERRY PHILLIPS

Jerry Phillips increasing involvement with Scouting has spanned more than 10 years. During this time, he has positively influenced young men (and women) through his ongoing, active involvement in delivering quality programs at the Pack, Troop and Crew level. Jerry's Scouting involvement began as an active parent who stepped up to be an Assistant Den Leader with Pack 200. From there, he transitioned to Assistant Cubmaster, Cubmaster, and is currently serving as the Committee Chair for the Pack. His involvement did not stop there. In 2009, Jerry stepped up as an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 133, a role he still holds to this day. Just when you think that Jerry would learn how to say NO, earlier this year, he agreed to serve on Crew 317's Committee! Jerry has also been a role model for the benefits of Scout volunteer training; over the years, he has acquired multiple degrees from the University of Scouting offered by Crossroads of America Council, BSA (Bachelor's degrees of both Program and Finance, Master's degrees of both Program and Finance and a Ph.D. of Scouting degree). Jerry has also been recognized with the Order of the Arrow and the District Award of Merit in 2014. Jerry's commitment to leaders of tomorrow does not stop with Scouting; he has also been active with the school PTO, his church and with community outreach through professional trade associations.



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## You Won't Want to Miss This Year' University of Scouting Event

Have you ever said "I really need to complete my required position-specific Scout training, but can't find a course", or "I wish I knew how other Packs/Troops/Crews address this issue, but can't figure out who to call?" You're in luck! This year's [University of Scouting](#) is your one-stop-shop to get everything you need from required training to advice from other units.

This year's one-day University of Scouting will be held at Warren Central High School on **Saturday, January 16, 2016**. During the six "class" periods, you will be able to choose from 205 different learning offerings! There are so many great learning offerings; your Pack/Troop/Crew will probably want to send multiple participants so that your unit won't miss a thing! Cost for this outstanding event is only \$25 per participant, if paid by January 10, 2016. This fee includes all course materials and a ticket to the Silver Beaver Luncheon. Come out, learn, and join us as we recognize the Crossroads of America BSA Silver Beaver recipients!

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## Scouting Religious Awards – God and Church Class Available

As a Scout, our Oath calls for us to do our "Duty to God" and our Law states that a "Scout is Reverent". To encourage members to grow stronger in their faith, 35 different religious groups have developed age-appropriate religious emblems programs. Are you looking for assistance in earning the God and Church religious emblem?

Beginning in January 2016, our own District Chaplain, "Wild Bill" Jensen will host a 12-week God and Church class for 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade Scouts. For course description go to [www.Praypub.org](http://www.Praypub.org). Students should bring a Bible (NIV recommended), student workbook, pen and a notebook to class. The required **God and Church** student workbook is available at the Scout shop.

Please contact "Wild Bill" directly to sign-up for this great opportunity either via [e-mail](#) or by telephone at 317-537-2256 (home) or 317-537-2182 (cell).

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## Why Philmont 2017 Should Be On Your "Bucket List"

Do you have a personal "bucket list"? If you have one and it doesn't contain backpacking at Philmont with your son(s) and/or daughter(s), you will have the opportunity to change that!

Keep checking the Crossroads of America website because the Council will be opening registration soon for crews going to Philmont in 2017. Do you want more incentive to join your son(s) and/or daughter(s) on this upcoming trek...read on and learn about our own Council Scout Executive, Patrick Sterrett's Trip of a Lifetime!

*My fondest memories as a youth working my way towards Eagle mostly center around Summer Camp. As a Scout I attended camp every year and enjoyed a week long trek at the Adirondack High Adventure Base in upstate New York. That trek led me to return for a Summer as an Assistant Voyageur helping to lead canoeing and hiking expeditions. Awesome times!*

*However I never went to Philmont as a youth, so when my three boys got into Scouting and I served as Scoutmaster I just had to convince the Troop to make the journey to New Mexico. Mission Accomplished! My oldest boy, Michael, and I hiked Philmont when he was fourteen. He lacked some confidence in himself before that trip because most of the boys were older, but I could see his confidence and leadership grow every day of that hike. Truly awesome to witness the magic of Philmont and Scouting in your own son.*



Photo from TREK OF A LIFETIME for Patrick, Michael, Travis and Zach Sterrett

*Fast forward four years and I had the chance to return again. This time Michael was a Ranger and my youngest boys, Travis and Zach were on the trek. I was able to pull a few strings and Michael was our Ranger. It was so cool for the boys in our Troop from little old Delaware to see their former SPL as a Ranger in New Mexico. It was the trip of a lifetime for me, my boys and the entire Troop. I can't recommend Philmont and all of our National High Adventure Bases enough. I've done plenty of Troop treks on our own too, but nothing beats being at a BSA National High Adventure Base and with Scouting brethren from around the World.*

*Patrick W. Sterrett / Scout Executive*

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## **New Boy Scout Requirements Begin January 1, 2016**

Have you missed the last few Northeast District Roundtables? If so, you missed a great review of Boy Scout rank advancement requirement changes that will take effect in 2016 presented by our own Gary Duncan. So are you interested in learning about them now?

**Why is the program changing?** During the assessment phase of the 2011-2015 National Strategic Plan, the Boy Scout program was reviewed and while there was no perceived need for significant program design changes, it was determined that the program was insufficient in some emerging areas of importance. The goal statement of the 2011-2015 National Strategic Plan was "We have changed our programs to reflect the results of a thorough program review and assessment that clearly identifies those elements that are appealing, exciting and culturally relevant to today's youth and families."

The new Boy Scout rank requirements become effective on January 1, 2016, subject to these **transition guidelines**: Boys registered in a troop on or prior to December 31, 2015, who are working on Tenderfoot through First Class may continue to work using the old requirements through 2016, but they must convert to the new requirements upon attaining First Class. Boys registered in a troop, team, crew, or ship, which have completed First Class rank on or prior to December 31, 2015, may complete the rank they are currently working on with the old requirements through 2016, but then must convert to the new requirements for subsequent ranks. Any boy registering in a troop for the first time on or after January 1, 2016, must use the new requirements. Beginning January 1, 2017, new requirements must be used for all ranks earned; even if a scout started a rank using the old requirements.

## Highlights of what is Changing

- Scout is now a formal rank.
- There is a service requirement for all ranks. One hour at Tenderfoot, two hours at Second Class, and three hours at First Class. The total hours for Star and Life remain the same at six hours each. But half of the hours for Life rank must now be conservation-related, emphasizing the importance of stewardship of the earth.
- There is a focus on healthy eating to develop lifelong habits.
- There is some re-ordering of the requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class. (Example: some current Second Class requirements are now Tenderfoot requirements)
- There are now physical fitness requirements at Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class. These new requirements are designed to encourage physical activity as a lifelong habit
- There is more focus on outdoor ethics, leave no trace and tread lightly.
- There are new requirements that focus on weather safety, risk assessment & mitigation.
- Duty to God is incorporated into the requirements to show Scout Spirit. The scout is required to “tell” how he believes he has done his duty to God as defined by him and his family. The troop leader’s role is to listen. The intent is for the Scout to have a self-reflection about belief and reverence, for expression by the Scout to his leader.
- Camping requirements are increasing. The number of campouts required has doubled – one for Tenderfoot, two more for Second Class, and three more for First Class – for a total of six campouts. This increase will help ensure that First Class Scouts have sufficient camping experience to have developed and improved upon the outdoor skills that Scouting promotes.

For a detailed look at the changes check out the [side-by-side comparison](#) provided by the Boy Scouts of America.

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## Camp Cards Are Coming...Camp Cards Are Coming...

Yes, I know that units are just finishing up their annual Popcorn Sales. While many of you had outstanding sales years, there is another opportunity approaching that will allow the scouts in your unit to help fund their next big adventure at camp or on a trip.

[Camp Cards](#) are returning for another run between March 1 and April 29, 2016. Units may choose how many weeks to sell and when to sell during this timeframe. We are offering more flexibility in 2016 to accommodate spring break schedules, the Girl Scout cookie sale, and the early-bird summer camp fee deadlines. While the final list of vendors are still being finalized, there is already an impressive line-up:

- \*NEW\*** **Dick's Sporting Goods** - \$5 off a \$50 purchase (one-time use offer)
- Marsh** - \$5 off a \$50 purchase (must use Fresh Idea card) (one-time use offer)
- Papa John's** - 40% off any online order (repeat-use offer)
- \*NEW\*** **Tuchman Cleaners** - 20% off dry cleaning (repeat-use offer)

Stay tuned as more information will be forthcoming!

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## Summer Camp Planning – Now Is The Time to Act!

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Financial assistance is available for Scouts who need help to attend camp. Camperships allow

Scouts to earn part of their camp fees (ranging up to 50% of the early bird rate) by completing an age-appropriate service project. Last year, more than \$100,000 in camperships were awarded. The 2016 Campership application will be available soon. The deadline for submitting a 2016 Campership application will be in February of 2016. Keep an eye on the Council Website or contact Mary Carrico by [email](#) or phone at (317) 813-7094 for more information. [<Return to Top of Page>](#)

## **The NED Outdoor Experience Exchange – Perfect North**

Are you looking for the perfect day trip during winter? This month's NED Outdoor Experience Exchange will give you the "swish-down" on a local ski/snowboarding/tubing area that is only a short hour and a half drive away from Indianapolis.

**WHERE:** Perfect North Slopes is located approximately 95-miles southeast of Indianapolis off of I-74 in Lawrenceburg, Indiana (19074 Perfect Lane). This ski slope offers over 100 acres of skiable area, with 23 total trails (18% beginner, 55% intermediate, and 27% advanced/expert). All of these runs are setup for night use, which could make for a long day on the slopes! The ski/snowboard slopes are served by 4 "magic carpets", 2 rope tows and 5 ski lifts. In addition, Perfect North Slopes also has a large snow tubing run available to those who would prefer this winter time activity. Perfect North Slopes also offers a lodge at the base of the ski area with a

**WHEN:** Perfect North Slopes is open during the winter months, as long as the weather allows for snow making. Check the [snow report](#) on their website, or call 812-537-3754 for updates.

**COST:** With a confirmed ADVANCE RESERVATION, Perfect North Slopes offers a discounted price for lift tickets. Current 8-hour skiing/snowboarding lift ticket pricing is \$35 per person for groups of 15-99; \$30 per person for groups 100+ in size. Rental ski and snowboard gear (including helmets) are available for rent at Perfect North Slope. Check their Ski/Board [group website](#) for further details. Discounts are also available for snowboarding groups. Check their Tubing [group website](#) for further details.

Tell us about your outing to Perfect North by posting on the [Northeast District Facebook](#) page!

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