



***Welcome to The Talon, a monthly e-newsletter for the Gathering of Eagles,  
the National Capital Area Council's Eagle Scout alumni group.***

***June 2011***

### ***Gathering of Eagles – Chairman's Comments***

At this year's *Centennial Excellence in Youth Leadership* (formerly *Eagle Career Day*) dinner, I was pleased to present the inaugural **Glenn A. and Melinda W. Adams National Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year Award** to Peter Scampavia. Peter's service project – [Don't Bully, Be a Friend](#) - focused on the issue of youth bullying. It was unusual and relevant in the context of today's school yard...and an excellent example of Scouting's inclusiveness and impact.

Going forward, I would urge you to identify competitive projects in 2011, with a view to nominating a candidate for the Adams award no later than January 21, 2012 for a project accomplished this year. Our committee guidelines are available at [www.boyscoutsc-ncac.org/thegathering](http://www.boyscoutsc-ncac.org/thegathering).

In a departure from our traditional informational newsletter, this month I'd like to share with you the remarks of Tim Larson, an outstanding Eagle Scout in our own Council. The remarks below were well delivered by Tim at a recent Council event honoring long-time Scouter and Executive Board member Michael Pocalyko of Monticello Capital with the 2011 Fairfax County "Good Scout" Award. Although not entirely authored by Tim, he amplified the original draft and personalized it with his experience. It's worth a read!

I hope you this summer you find time to take advantage of the great outdoor adventure opportunities this Council has to offer at [Camp William B. Snyder](#) and [Goshen Scout Reservation](#).

Yours in Scouting,

John Mason

Chairman, Gathering of Eagles

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## What Makes a Scout?

Eagle Scout Tim Larson, Fairfax County, VA

*When they asked me to give a speech about Scouting, I thought, "This is going to be easy." But as I tried to think of all the things that I wanted to say about Scouting I realized this could go on all night.*

*Simply put, Scouting teaches us to be good citizens and trains us to become leaders. But how? Since the earliest recorded times, people have looked to the wisdom of lawmakers to guide them along their paths of duty and honor. Most laws that people have written either command or prohibit. But the Scout Law does neither. It's simply a statement of fact, of what's natural for a Scout, and of what a Scout is. **A Scout is: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent.** Teaching Scouts to live by these words, in every part of their daily lives, is how Scouting makes good citizens and leaders.*

*Lord Baden Powell, the founder of Scouting said, "Scouting is a game with a purpose." You've all seen pictures of a Boy Scout helping an old lady across the street. A Scout is helpful. But there is so much more to it than that. I've built benches, sheds and birdhouses, picked up bags of litter on road clean-ups, painted walls, cleaned, dug holes, cut wood, collected boxes and boxes of canned goods for food banks, and retired American flags at ceremonies ... the list goes on and on. Yes, it was all considered work, but we worked together and made it fun.*

*Scouting provides opportunities for us that we would probably never get to try otherwise. On a Scout outing I got to scuba dive in the Florida Keys, and learned how to shoot a pistol in the police Explorers and a rifle in the Boy Scouts. I've canoed (and unexpectedly gone swimming); whitewater rafted, and hiked the battlefields of Gettysburg. I've had my picture in Boys Life, our national magazine. I've biked through the longest tunnel on the east coast. I've slept in a Navy barracks, been on a submarine and an aircraft carrier. I've camped in the pouring rain, the freezing cold, and the sweltering heat. I've looked through a telescope, built and shot model rockets, and researched my family tree. Where else would you get to try all those things?*

*Some say that playing sports makes a man by teaching boys good sportsmanship and making boys strong. However, each time a Boy Scout says the Scout Oath he promises to keep himself "... physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight." So, contrary to sports, Scouting is for everyone. It's not the most capable part of the group on an outing while others wait on the bench hoping for a turn. Everyone goes; everyone works together. Older Scouts teach while younger Scouts learn, until they are the older Scouts and then they become the teachers. Everyone has something to contribute.*

Scouting also provides opportunities to explore areas of personal interest through Cub Scout arrow points and activity pins and Boy Scout merit badges. As you can see by my sash I've taken advantage of checking out a few. Cubs begin with simple skills like cooking meals or making kites. As Webelos they can study geology, build toolboxes from wood, perform plays and explore the law of gravity. Boy Scout merit badges are meant to prepare us for adulthood. Last year over 96,000 American Boy Scouts earned the First Aid merit badge. I would definitely want one of them with me in an emergency. Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, and Citizenship in the World merit badges teach boys that what we do affects others and what is happening on the other side of the world affects us all. When I earned the Personal Management merit badge I had to prepare a budget. My counselor told me a budget is **NOT** just writing down that I spent the entire contents of my wallet and it is **NOT** hoarding all my money in a box. It's planning what I am going to save and what I can afford to spend. Swimming, Hiking, and Cycling merit badges encourage fitness for life. But beyond that there are badges to explore hobbies: Gardening, Theater, Model Building, Radio, and Coin Collecting. There are badges to explore public service: Fire Safety, Emergency Preparedness, and Crime Prevention. Other badges explore careers: Engineering, Architecture, Journalism, Auto Mechanics, Medicine, and Law. And of course what would Scouting be without outdoor skills - Wilderness Survival, Camping, Pioneering, and Hiking.

All along the way the work, the learning, and the fun are put together into two main awards that Scouts earn. The Arrow of Light is the highest award in Cub Scouting and the Eagle Scout rank is the highest award in Boy Scouts. Boys that have taken the time and had the perseverance to have the privilege of wearing these patches and show everyone that they are ready to become a useful part of society. Not only have Eagle Scouts learned about the skills needed as an adult, they have also served as leaders to others. They have performed an Eagle Project – a service project of their choice. That project isn't that boy being helpful to others; it's that boy serving as the crew boss while his friends and Scouts perform the service. The Eagle candidate has to arrange the work schedule, make sure supplies will be ready, make sure workers will be there on time, and deal with any last-minute problems that always arise. And when it is all through he has to provide a report detailing the project and the work completed. My dad says that it sounds an awful lot like many of your careers, doesn't it?

But when we turn 18 years old, when we are ready to be good citizens, what will we do? How will we put our Scouting to use? Here are some examples of those that have come before me:

- 26 of the first 29 astronauts were former scouts
- Of the 12 men to walk on the moon's surface, 11 were involved in Scouting.
- The 108th Congress contained 216 former scouts and 22 Eagles.
- Gerald Ford, an Eagle Scout, became President of the United States
- Steven Spielberg, the famous movie producer, is also an Eagle Scout

- *Hank Aaron, Walter Cronkite, Harrison Ford, Bill Gates, Bruce Jenner, John F. Kennedy, and John Ritter were all Scouts in their youth.*

*Of any one hundred boys who become Scouts, thirty will drop out in their first year. Perhaps this may be looked upon as a failure, but later in life all of these will remember that they had been Scouts and will speak highly of the program.*

*Of the one hundred, only rarely will one ever appear before a juvenile court judge.*

*Twelve of the one hundred will be from families that do not belong to a church. Through Scouting, these twelve and many of their families will join a church and continue to be active all their lives. Six of the one hundred will become pastors.*

*Each of the one hundred will learn something from Scouting. Almost all will develop hobbies that will carry on through the rest of their lives. Approximately one-half will serve in the military, and profit from their Scout training. At least one will use it to save another person's life and many will credit it with saving their own.*

*Four of the one hundred will reach the Eagle rank, and at least one will later say that he valued his Eagle above his college degree. Many will find their future career through merit badge work and Scouting contacts. Seventeen of the one hundred boys will later become Scout leaders and will give leadership to thousands of additional boys.*

*Only one in four boys in America will become a Scout. But, it is interesting to note that of the leaders in this nation; in business, religion, and politics; three out of four were Scouts.*

*I hope that this story will never end. But, you shouldn't take Scouting for granted. You can do nothing more important for young people today than to continue your support of Scouting. Thank you for helping to make Boy Scouting available in our area. Your support is appreciated and will help to make this world a better place.*

## **Be a Scout Leader at Camp**

Have you been looking for a way to pass on what you learned in Scouting? Are you interested in spending a week or weekend at Scout camp? Consider becoming a provisional Scoutmaster/Cubmaster at Goshen Scout Reservation and Camp William B. Snyder. Please email service committee co-chairs - Michael Files ([michael\\_files@yahoo.com](mailto:michael_files@yahoo.com)) or Glen Clubb ([gtclubb@comcast.net](mailto:gtclubb@comcast.net)) – for more information.

## **GOE Distinguished Speakers Series - Save the Date: Thursday, October 13**

**SAVE THE DATE - October 13**

On the evening of October 13, GOE will kick-off of its *Gathering of Eagles Distinguished Speakers Series*. This

series will feature prominent business, civic and/or community leaders who will share with attendees their perspective on local, regional and national topics.

**Location:** Cosmos Club, 2121 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008  
(<https://www.cosmosclub.org>)

The Cosmos Club, as a professional social club, maintains a formal dress code with ties and jackets required for men. It was founded originally by John Wesley Powell, who led the first exploratory mission down the Colorado River and established the US Geological Survey. Although the club was originally focused only on science as the common theme shared by its members, it has expanded to include lawyers, doctors, diplomats, journalists and other similar professions.

**Cost:** \$55 (lecture followed by reception)

More details and registration information will be available soon. If you have specific suggestions for speakers, please mail Kevin Marvel at [kmarvel@mac.com](mailto:kmarvel@mac.com).

## Council Events

### NCAC Strategic Plan Briefings

Be a part of the plan! NCAC Executive Board Member and Vice President of Strategic Resources Hon. John Mason and Scout Executive Les Baron will lead presentations and discussions of NCAC's Strategic Plan 2011-2015 in different locations all over the Council service area. Learn more about how the focus of this plan will support the needs of your districts and engage more youth in Scouting. Take this opportunity to get your questions answered and provide feedback and insights to Council. Download the NCAC BSA Strategic Plan 2011-2015 Summary PDF or the full NCAC BSA Strategic Plan 2011-2015 at [www.boyscouts-ncac.org/strategicplan](http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/strategicplan).

#### TIME

6:30-7:00

PM:

LIGHT

REFRESHMENTS

7:00-8:30 PM: STRATEGIC PLAN MEETING

#### DATE/PLACE\*

**July 25:** Marriott Scout Center, 9190 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814

**July 14:** Charles Wesley UMC, 6817 Dean Drive, McLean, VA 22101

**August 4:** Suitland Stake LDS, Building 5300 Auth Road, Camp Springs, MD 20744

#### RSVP

[www.boyscouts-ncac.org/strategicplanRSVP](http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/strategicplanRSVP)

or

Will Burket at 301-214-9106/[will.burket@scouting.org](mailto:will.burket@scouting.org)

*\*Presentations/discussions were already held on June 6 (Camp William B. Snyder) and June 20 (Aquia Ward LDS Church).*

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## NCAC100 - Call for Volunteers!



From 9 am-5 pm on Saturday, October 22, NCAC's Camp William B. Snyder will be alive with Scouting as the Council officially celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We know you're planning to attend, but don't be hesitate to donate your time and/or talents to one of the volunteer committees that will ensure the celebration is a success.

Committees include:

- Activities
- EMT
- Facilities
- Food
- The Green Team (Trash)
- Logistics
- Marketing
- Registrar
- Security
- Sponsorships

Full details about NCAC100 will be launched on July 21. Send an e-mail to [NCAC100@Scouting.org](mailto:NCAC100@Scouting.org) for more information. Know an organization that might want to sponsor an activity that day? Send an e-mail to [NCAC100@Scouting.org](mailto:NCAC100@Scouting.org)!

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## Save-the-Date

### Scouting Salutes the Military

October 26, 2011

Crystal Gateway Marriott

The **3rd Annual Scouting Salutes the Military** honors one active duty enlisted person from each of the five military branches – Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard - who personifies the values found in the Scout Oath and Law. Sponsors needed. For more information, visit [www.boyscouts-ncac.org/salutethemilitary](http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/salutethemilitary) or contact Kevin Bradley at 301-214-9110 / [kevin.bradley@scouting.org](mailto:kevin.bradley@scouting.org).



[Learn more about how to support the NCAC through the Combined Federal Campaign \(CFC\) here.](#)



[Learn more about how to support the NCAC through United Way here.](#)

**[National Eagle Scout Association \(NESA\)](#)**