

Guide to the Taughannock District and other Scouting Organizations Helping You

Baden-Powell Council – the Baden-Powell Council covers a six-county area in New York and Pennsylvania



- hires Scouting Professionals (Ed and Stacy) to help our Packs, Troops, Crews, Posts and Ship
- helps us deal with programming changes caused by pandemics! Helps us coordinate when we can't meet ...
- raises the funds needed to pay staff and maintain our two Scout Camps and day camps
- runs the various Cub Scout gatherings, larger Scouts BSA gatherings and some high adventure opportunities for older Scouts
- provides (with National's help) our training curriculums
- maintains a Scout Shop in Chenango Forks for buying Scout merchandise
- See <https://www.BPCouncil.org> for more information

Taughannock District – one of four districts in the Baden-Powell Council, the Taughannock District supports Scouting in Tompkins and Cortland Counties.



- organizes a monthly “**Roundtable**” providing opportunities for volunteers to coordinate activities and learn about opportunities for Scouts
- provides experienced volunteer “Commissioners” giving neutral guidance to units about how to run an effective Scouting program (**Commissioners**)
- provides a committee of experienced adults to help units with advancement generally, provide neutral, experienced feedback on Eagle Scout/ Quartermaster/ Venturing Summit projects and boards of review for those highest ranks (**Advancement Group**)
- seeks new volunteers for both units and the two-county area to support units both from existing Scouting families and alumni Scouts (**Alumni/Nominating Group**)
- organizes multiple-unit activities and service projects (**CAPS Group**)
- runs fund-raising campaigns among our Scouting families and local businesses to help pay for Council services and runs the budget for local activities (**Finance Group**)
- coordinates efforts between and among all Scouting units to attract new members and seeks out positive publicity about Scouting in the two-county area (**Membership/Publicity Group**)
- helps coordinate recognition of Duty to God aspects of the Scouting program among various religions/denominations/traditions/spiritualities (**Religion Group**)
- offers a staff of experienced trainers for in-person training in leading Scouting units and teaching Scout skills. Also recognizes adults for getting appropriate training and for providing good programming (**Training Group**)
- See <https://www.TCScouts.org> for more information

Each Cub Scout Pack, Scouts BSA Troop, Sea Scout Ship, Venturing Crew and Explorer Post is encouraged to have representatives in all of these groups. Such positions are good ways to get support from parents of alumni Scouts, grandparents of current Scouts or interested members of your community. Email Alumni@TCScouts.org to propose someone. We're attaching the list of all District Committee members so you can see if you already know someone, see who from your unit is already a member or know that you have to propose a new member!

A word about virtual meetings

We have been using a combination of the Council's GoToMeeting account and various Zoom accounts to allow us to video conference.

We're aware that not everyone *wants* to be seen on video and not everyone lives in an area with internet fast enough to accommodate video. We still want you to participate – all of these video conference options allow for you to phone in without video. If you are not sure how to do that, please talk with your Commissioner or email to Key3@TCScouts.edu!

Commissioners

Commissioners serve Scouting by using their past Scouting experience to collaborate with adults in the District's Scouting units to create the best possible Scouting program for their youth members. Unit Commissioners are advisors to their assigned units, and act as liaison between the District and the units. Roundtable Commissioners are responsible for putting on the monthly Roundtable meetings for leaders.



2020 Goals include:

1. *Continue to have commissioners share specific ideas to help units with programming or membership issues*
2. *Continue having Roundtable commissioners encourage discussions between units at roundtable and discussions between unit levels at roundtable*

District Commissioner –

Mike Brown – DC@TCScouts.org

Roundtable Commissioner –

Mike Stoll – Roundtable@TCScouts.org

See <https://www.TCScouts.org/commissioner.htm> for a list of the Unit Commissioners

Advancement Group generally meets fourth Thursday of each month at TC3 Campus, but currently meeting by conference call as requested ... – check <https://www.TCScouts.org/advancement.htm> to confirm)

The Advancement Group can help you with ideas on what advancement and other recognition are available for your Scouts, monitors changes to advancement requirements and informs leaders of those changes. The group provides guidance for Scouting's capstone experiences, like Eagle Scout projects and Boards of review. It also tracks advancement to ensure that Scouts are being given the chance to earn recognition. By participating in this Group, units will get up-to-date information on advancement changes and policies.



Advancement Group Chair –

Mark Wimer – Advancement@TCScouts.org
(Approximately 30 members on its mailing list – but we can always include more!)

2020 Goals include

1. *Continue with high quality basic services by holding 4 Life-to-Eagle training from Sept to June and 1 board of review training committee/roundtable comm'r*
2. *Hold 1 merit badge counselor training or get 50% of counselors to train online*
3. *Hold meetings at least 10 of 12 months*
4. *Notify commissioners of units not advancing at every comm'r meeting*

National Eagle Scout Assoc./Scouting Alumni & Friend/Nominating Group (meets as needed)

This Group helps staff all of the other groups and can help units identify and locate potential volunteers in their geographic areas using lists of Eagle Scouts, former volunteers or interested community members. Having participants in this group means you get direct access to help finding volunteers



2020 Goals include

1. *Increase District Committee by 5 members*
2. *work with Finance Group to find additional members*
3. *continue to respond to requests for new members of various District "nodes"*

NESA/SAF/Nominating Group Chair
Mike Hughes – Alumni@TCScouts.org

Camping, Activities, Program and Service (CAPS) Group (meets as needed)

CAPS helps coordinate inter-unit activities at all levels - District Pinewood Derbies for Cub Scout Packs and Camporees and other events for Scouts BSA Troops and Venture/Sea Scout units. CAPS also provides District-wide activities across all Scouting programs. The group also provides guidance on how to run good unit-level programs, makes High Adventure experiences (like treks to Philmont Scout Ranch or SeaBase, or local or area long-distance hikes) available to older Scouts, and finds and coordinates service opportunities for Scouts of all ages. CAPS also promotes Camping opportunities provided by the Council, such as day camps, resident camps and adventure weekends. The Order of the Arrow program for older Scouts providing cheerful service to Scouting is part of this group. By participating in this Group, individual units will have access to the most up-to-date information even before they are announced at Roundtable.



CAPS Group Co-Chairs –
Kathleen Gross – CAPS@TCScouts.org
Lynn Green – mac_green@msn.com

2020 Goals include

1. *Reach out to all units to invite them to send a representative to the committee*
2. *Promote at least one District high-adventure trip*
3. *Return the OA chapter to having regular meetings and an active chapter chief*
4. *Plan/help plan and support at least three council/district Cub activities a year (Pinewood / Spring / Fall Adv Wknd)*
5. *Plan and support at least two Scout activities a year with an emphasis on holding activities in front of the public, getting teasers out at least 3 months before with flyers by the roundtable the month before the event*

Finance Group (meets as needed)

The Finance Group helps create a budget for district activities, helps run the annual Popcorn sale which, in turn, helps fund individual units and Council activities and helps run both fundraising drives from Scouting families (Family Friends of Scouting or "Family FOS") and from local businesses (Community Friends of Scouting or "Community FOS").



2020 Goals include:

1. *Improve FOS collections by starting on-line fund-raising options*
2. *Follow up on Family FOS absentees*
3. *work with Alumni/Nominating to identify a chair for Family FOS*
4. *work with our DE to create an on-time district budget*
5. *work with our DE to increase calendar sales to large local businesses by December 31*

Finance Group Chair –
Joe McDermott jaguwar@gmail.com
Popcorn "Kernel" - [needed]

Membership/Publicity Group (meets 5 times/year, mostly by conference call)

The Membership/Publicity Group tracks and promotes membership growth in the District's Scouting units, and supports recruiting and retention efforts by the units. It also publicizes opportunities to join Scouts as well as the good work that Scouts do in our communities.



2020 Goals include

1. *ensure all units distinguish between retention (including Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts) and recruiting (attracting more youth to the program)*
2. *run "Scout Me In" events coordinating between and among units (2 weeks in fall, 2 in spring)*
3. *encourage area recruiting groups in Cortland, Ithaca and Dryden by having each group appoint an official representative to the group by September 1*
4. *support Join Scouting events by having assigned volunteers to support professionals by August 15*

Membership/Publicity Group Chair –
Clay Converse – Membership@TCScouts.org

Religion Group (meets as needed)

The Religion Group Alumni/Nominating Group helps coordinate recognition of Duty to God aspects of the Scouting program among various religions, denominations, traditions or spiritualities, by promoting various religious recognition awards and different types of retreats for Scouts.



2020 Goals include

1. *hold a Day of Reflection (will be done via video conference)*
2. *hold a 10 Commandments Hike in Cortland in November 2020 (if permitted)*
3. *Promote Scout Sunday/Sabbath on Facebook*

Religion Group Chair –
Mike Stoll – mikefstoll@gmail.com

Training Group (meets as needed)

The Training Group offers a staff of experienced trainers for in-person training in leading Scouting units and teaching Scout skills and recognizes adults and Scouts for getting appropriate training and for providing good programming helps staff all of the other groups. It also tracks the on-line training status of registered adult leaders to ensure that trained leaders are providing Scouting programming to youth members. It can provide help with accessing on-line training. It also provides training updates in Roundtable and advice on upcoming changes to training.



2020 Goals include:

1. *meet requirement for all direct contact leaders to be trained by November 1*
2. *advertise all training events at least two months prior to the event*
3. *run an Introduction to Leadership Skills sessions for Boy Scouts by November 15*
4. *offer a training module to each program group at Roundtable at least every other month*
5. *find at least 3 more trainers by December 31 to build a stable group of instructors for every course*
6. *act as a resource for trainings to teach parents how to work in and benefit from Scouting*

Training Group Chair –
Jery Stedinger – Training@TCScouts.org