

Annual Report to FUMCOG 2022 Scouts BSA Troop 1719/Boys Spring 2021

Honors and Celebrations

Dymir Bacon became our seventh Eagle Scout since our founding in 2011. Dymir joined the Troop as a crossover from Cub Scout Pack 1557 at Triumph Baptist Church. Dymir built a set of sturdy shelves in the gym balcony, using plywood donated by Tague Lumber. We are awaiting the date of his Eagle Scout Court of Honor later this spring. Following his 18th birthday, Dymir registered as a trained adult leader.

The pandemic-delayed Eagle Court of Honor for **Henry Shannon** was held in late December. Eagle Scouts **David Miller** and **Takeyo Rockmore** each held a Court of Honor in our Chapel. David was also presented with a congratulatory citation in the chambers of Philadelphia City Council under the sponsorship of Councilman David Oh.

Eagle Scout Takeyo Rockmore was invited to be the Master of Ceremonies at a special event honoring Cradle of Liberty Council President Scott Storer.

On April 6th, Scout **Brandon Henderson** was a participant in the annual Good Citizenship Award event sponsored by the Union League, an honor reserved for outstanding 11th graders nominated by their organizations.

Highlights of the past year

Most of our activities and meetings have been jointly planned and attended by young men of Troop 1719 and young women of Troop 1313. This includes meetings, camping, outings, service days, and ceremonies.

We camped at **Camp Minsi**, in the Poconos, for a weekend. Scouts followed a not-very-well-marked trail, learned how to use axes and saws, survived food raids from a bold squirrel and raucous racoons, and watched as a black bear strolled past the campsite (disappointed, no doubt, that we had cleaned up so thoroughly).

In July and August, we returned to summer camp at **Resica Falls Scout Reservation** in partnership with our “linked” Troop 1313/Girls. Several of the Scouts attended two separate weeks of camp which enabled them to earn twice as many merit badges as in a typical summer.

In September, we redoubled our outreach and recruited a small number of families to restart **Cub Pack 1719** serving boys and girls in grades K – 5. Unfortunately, the COVID surge of December and January discouraged some families from participation and the Pack will need another recruiting drive this spring.

Scout Sunday in February of 2022 featured our Scouts participating in the service, a dynamic guest speaker, and the performance of the Scout Anthem by the Scouts and the Choir soloists. Thank you, Jodi, for helping us learn the chorus.

Both troops tackled **winter camping** in February, in which proper preparation paid off in comfort and excitement. Scouts build and subsequently launched model rockets at Camp Hart.

Severe weather postponed the annual **Klondike Derby**, and outdoor skills competition, which was rescheduled for early March. The 6 newest Scouts from both troops performed very well.

It is exciting to finally start filling up the two **storage sheds** which were constructed just before Thanksgiving! We now have the gratifying task of organizing and storing the amazing amount of top-quality supplies and equipment in a secure but accessible location. Work crews spent a weekend building and installing shelves and cabinets.

After spending the entire month of March working on fast tracking rank advancement, our April 22-24 trip was local: at the **Scout House in Roxborough**. We focused on completing as many outdoor requirements as possible.

- Flag raising, lowering, etiquette
- Knife, saw, and ax safety
- Cooking over a backpacking stove
- Completing a one-mile orienteering course
- Navigating in the neighborhood using GPS
- Planning meals, shopping using a budget, cooking breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- Evaluating our trash and recycling, and planning how to lessen our footprint

National BSA Highlights

The shadow of the bankruptcy judgement involving the settlement of abuse cases against the BSA still hangs over the organization. Many exciting and key proposals are on hold until this is finally settled. Two initiatives that are moving forward are the launch of the newest merit badge and the announcement of the upcoming 2023 National Jamboree.

On November 1st, the BSA launched the **Citizenship in Society merit badge**. This badge requires Scouts to research practical strategies for promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This new badge emphasizes the conversations our young people need to have about how to make their lives and their Scout units a welcoming and supportive place for all families. Scouts examine the benefits of everyone's needs being considered, and everyone's voice being heard. Scouts are encouraged to think more broadly about "diversity" beyond racial, religious, and sexuality/gender identification; including the physically challenged, lower-resourced, and neurodiverse population. Scouts define ethical leadership and how what it means, in practical terms, to be an "upstander" This badge will become required for Eagle Scout after July 1, 2022. The Citizenship in Society badge is just one project of the newly created **BSA Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** which advises and guides the DE&I Leads for each of the 18 National Service Territories that make up the BSA. NST 13 chose me (Ann) as the DE&I Lead for the territory encompassing the 16 Councils in NJ and Eastern PA. My job is to coordinate training and set action items for each of the Councils as they move toward making Scouting a welcoming place for all families who agree to support the Scout Oath and Scout Law. We are opening doors and removing barriers to participation, leadership, and support of historically underrepresented families and individuals.

The registration for the **2023 National Jamboree** is now open. Cradle of Liberty Council has reserved four troops for boys in our area, and one troop for girls. The all-inclusive cost of the entire 10-day experience is \$2,050 per Scout and includes transportation, meals, all program areas, medical care, and campsite setups. A National Jamboree is a gathering of tens of thousands of adult and youth members at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in Glen Jean, WV. A Jamboree features extreme sports and activities, stadium shows, hands-on exploration, and a multitude of agencies and organizations engaging Scouts in learning about their world.

As always, we are most grateful for the enthusiastic support of the FUMCOG staff and congregation. We welcomed Pastor Gabe as our Chaplain, were uplifted by the turnout at Scout Sunday, and are thankful for the donations to the shed project and our general fund which supports low-income Scouts.