



March 2021

Troop 455

Haygood United Methodist Church

Troop 455 on Scoutbook

Scoutbook is an online tool where Troop 455 calendar, information, and payments are made. Scouts and Parents can find all information at: <https://scoutbook.scouting.org/>

SCOUTMASTER'S CORNER

From Cubs to Scouts

We've had a great month at Troop 455! After several one-nighters, the Troop had its first two-night camping outing in several months, enjoyed a Safe Shooting Sports outing at Tom Lowe Shooting Grounds with NRA certified instruction and have ended the month by welcoming a number of Webelos and Arrow of Light candidates and their parents to visit with Troop 455 during one of our meetings.

Recruiting is a 'life blood activity' for any Troop and Cub Scout Packs are certainly one of the most important opportunities for prospective parents and Scouts to gain familiarity with the Troop, it's Scouts and Scout/Adult leaders as they seek to continue their Scouting path by joining a Troop. While joining Scouts BSA doesn't require prior Cub Scouting experience, it's a natural pathway and we're thankful for these candidates and their families for investing some time with our Scouts.

Understandably this month there's been a lot of discussion about 'Safe Scouting', 'Scout-led' and appropriate roles for adults. I wanted to share a great Scouting article many Scouting families have found helpful over time, **What I Wish Every Scout Parent Understood**.

(<https://scoutmastercg.com/what-i-wish-every-scout-parent-understood/>).

Enjoy your path along the Scouting Way and as always, please let me know if you have questions or input regarding Scouting and/or our Troop.

Mr. Todd Sharp
Scoutmaster

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MARCH TROOP CALENDAR

Date	Activity	Location
1	Troop Committee Meeting	Virtual
2	PLC Meeting - Scout Leadership	Virtual
8	Board of Review	Virtual
9	Troop Meeting	Haygood Gym
16	Troop Meeting	Haygood Gym
23	Troop Meeting	Haygood Gym
26-28	March Campout Bert Adams Scout Olympics with Pack 17 Webelos	Haygood Gym
29	Troop Committee Meeting	Virtual
30	Troop Meeting	Haygood Gym

Outings Update, David Moore

NEXT OUTING: Scout Olympics with Webelos
Friday--Sunday March 26-28

The February outing was a successful shooting trip. It started at the Tom Lowe Shooting range on Saturday morning. On the range, the Scouts learned the mechanics, safety, and execution of the shotgun.

Saturday night was spent camping at the Chattahoochee Bend State Park. Everyone enjoyed camping on Adirondack platforms. It was below freezing, but everyone slept well.

The March Outing will be a great trip! We'll camp for two nights at Bert Adams. Pack 17 Webelos will be joining Troop 455 for the outing. This trip is action-packed - there will be Scout Olympics, two evening fireside events, a Sunday service and more!
We're looking for lots of Scouts to come on the trip and so please sign up and do so soon, thank you!
Scout leader is Anderson Smith-Cote and the Adult leader is Matt Anthony.

HIGH ADVENTURE SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE

Troop 455 still has two slots available for the St. Croix High Adventure Scuba trip for scouts 13 or older who are Open Water certified. For more info, contact Mr. Brady Lum, brady@lum.net

SENIOR PATROL LEADER

Jack Murlin, Eagle Scout

The upcoming March recruiting event at Bert Adams will be led by Anderson Smith Cote and Mr. Anthony and will be a Webelos-oriented event. Webelos from Pack 17 will join us and be exposed to some activities we do in our troop. The April wilderness survival outing will be led by me and Mr. Brooks.

The main thing that I would like to talk about is what differentiates Boy Scouts from other organizations. Youth leadership is an important benefit of what our program offers. Our troop is youth-led. Youth-led means that the scouts oversee the outings and meetings with the support of the adults. Adults are there to support youth and make sure our program is safe. One of the things that makes Scouts different from other organizations is that this program allows scouts to fail and enables them to learn from their mistakes and not fail the next time around.

I have seen good youth leadership demonstrated in the PLC and older scouts in the past few months. On outings and at meetings, I am very happy because the older scouts are mentoring younger scouts with skills and advancement extremely well. This is the direction I would like the troop to keep going in. This relationship reinforces the way scouting is supposed work.

In the last 3 years, our troop has recovered from a lack of older youth leaders. That was a time when most of our older scouts left, with the exception of Steven Compton and Lawson Crutcher and few others, and did not support the troop. This caused a void in older youth leaders giving our troop an unbalanced ratio of older to new scouts. Right now, we have reestablished a good number of older scouts, a majority of them being on the PLC. It is key we let the youth leadership do their job and not let adults interfere with this learning process.

LIFE TO EAGLE

Mr. Mickey Smith, Adult Training Chair
smit4789@bellsouth.net, (404) 840-4104

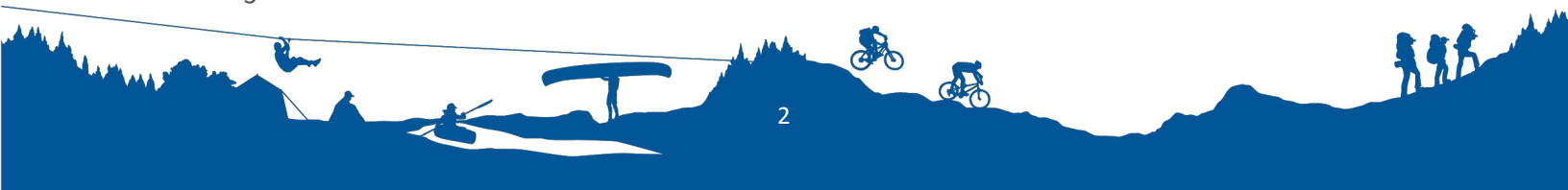
As 'Life to Eagle Coach' for Troop 455, I work with Life Scouts to encourage them to make regular progress toward achieving the Eagle Scout rank if that's their goal and desire. If you're a Life Scout, and we haven't talked yet, give me a call (with your parents on the line for YPT) and we can discuss your plan to get to Eagle.

We discuss various topics including fulfilling their leadership responsibilities (POR), developing plans for completing any required merit badges, and helping them select an Eagle Scout Service Project that they have enthusiasm for. I am not looking over their shoulders or nagging them to do a specific step, but rather, asking them to report on a semi-regular basis what they have accomplished toward their goal.

I have seen a number of scouts achieve their Life rank and hit the 'pause button' on advancement. Thinking they have 'just one more step' and they'll achieve Eagle!! Days pass, weeks pass, months pass and with each day/week/month delayed, it becomes harder to re-engage and knock out advancement and merit badge requirements. For parents of aspiring Eagle Scouts, I ask you not to nag about a particular item but instead, ask what they have accomplished lately toward their goal, and encourage them to contact me if they become stuck.

I view my coaching position as a cheerleader to make sure they progress, no matter how small, stay engaged in their rank advancement, and don't lose the enthusiasm for achieving their Eagle Scout rank. I have sat on Eagle Board of Reviews for scouts where 2 or 3 years have passed since achieving Life. They had done very little, if any, advancement planning. Then there is a mad dash to finish. It's always rushed, and not nearly the quality work we expect of an aspiring Eagle Scout.

Hopefully, scouts will consider me a resource for discussing their challenges and for identifying solutions. I don't have all the answers, but we can develop and explore other avenues to find the path that's right for them.



SUMMER CAMP!

BERT ADAMS CAMP | JUNE 6 - 12, 2021 | \$375

Ms. Laurel Miyake, Summer Camp Coordinator

bsa455summercamp@gmail.com

[Summer Camp Sign Up is Online Only](https://forms.gle/zxADm7ycUMsvTpFW9) (https://forms.gle/zxADm7ycUMsvTpFW9)

Scouts have unique opportunities to experience new & varied activities, obtain new life skills, gain confidence & have fun with friends. Scouts who attend camp return with great memories, deeper commitments to Scouting, and maturity. They have tons of MB classes & program choices, aquatic & land-based games, and special events. Bikes are highly recommended to help Scouts get around camp. New scouts are assigned to Rawhide, Swimming & First Aid for safety and skill development. Older Scouts may choose to do Whitewater Kayaking Treks, COPE, and Leadership, Rank & Advancement Seminars.

I register all campers, manage forms & class selection, and coordinate the Scout & bike carpool. Please feel free to email or call me with any questions. Finances will never keep a Scout from attending camp, so please speak with Mr. Sharp or me before 3/15 to secure assistance.

Due Dates	Required Forms	Required Payments
3/10	BSA Medical Forms A & B, + copy of Insurance Card	Pay in Full (\$375) or payment 1 (\$175)
3/20	Class & Program Request	Payment 2 (\$200)
3/22	Scouts with completed forms & fees get registered today	
5/1	BSA Medical Form C	
5/1	Tenting Requests (if allowed) & Carpool Assignments made	
6/2	COVID Screening	TBD

WINTER CAMP RECAP

Nick Anthony, Scribe, Assistant SPL

Winter camp is a great experience for all boys in our Troop. Some of our scouts who crossed over from Pack 17 might remember polar bear camping. Winter camp is just like that. You get to spend a week up at Bert Adams having fun and earning merit badges. Tons of fun activities occur, including the Klondike race and polar bear plunge. You can earn merit badges and have fun with your troop mates while in the cold, brisk air.

In December 2020, we went to Bert Adams and earned merit badges, competed in the Klondike race, and had tons of fun hanging out around camp. Bert Adams did a fantastic job balancing fun and COVID safety. I highly recommend Winter Camp to any scout who wants to earn some more merit badges and have tons of fun in the cold at Bert Adams.

ORDER OF THE ARROW UPDATE

Zack Strange, OA Unit Representative

Spring Gathering is coming up this month for all existing members. This year's theme is "Survivor," and with that comes several games and events based on the show. There will be plenty of covid-safe fun to be had. Additionally, we would like to congratulate the new candidates from 455 who were voted in. We hope to see you at upcoming events after your induction. The next induction weekend is in April, so make sure to sign up for it before it's too late. That is all the upcoming news from the OA.

Troop 455 Committee:

Advancement: Brady Lum Communications: Sue Anthony Fundraising: Open Treasurer: Shelly Hart Outdoor Activities: David Moore	Merit Badges, Health Forms & Summer Camp: Laurel Miyake Adult Training: Mickey Smith New Families: Pierce Pape Courts of Honor: Jody Brooks	Chair: Dylan Miyake Haygood Rep: Jonathan Lathbury Scoutmaster: Todd Sharp
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