



April 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

#### Spring & Renewal

Ah Springtime! A tremendous time of renewal. As the short days of winter give way to longer days and warmer weather, nature, quite literally, seems to 'spring' to life. Blossoms, petals, buds, flowers and yes indeed, for us Georgians, pollen.....yuck.

For Scouting, this time of year also brings renewal to the Troop. It is a time when many Arrow of Light/Webelos/Cub Scouts bridge over from their packs to Troops. Cub Scout Pack 17 will conduct this on May 13th at Sydney Marcus Park. Troop 455 Scouts are encouraged to attend and participate.

Troop 455 Scouts are enjoying the final outings together before the beginning of summer. Last weekend was the great Scout Olympics recruiting event and we're now planning for the upcoming Wilderness Skills/Survival outing, April 23rd-25th. Scouts will also begin to prepare and train for summer camp or perhaps (for some of our older Scouts) one of the BSA high-adventure camps at one of the National Scout Bases (Philmont, SeaBase, Northern Tier, Summit-Bechtel). Yes indeed, Spring is an important time of renewal between the harsh conditions of winter (and the academic year) and the summer season, as we continue to enjoy Scouting in its natural environment - the great outdoors.

Spring is ALSO the time that the Troop initiates its annual program planning cycle. This is the process of determining the calendar and schedule for outings and events for our next academic year 2021- 2022. It is led by the Scouts themselves and informed and supported by the Scoutmaster Corps (Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters). We review school calendars, holiday schedules, BSA District, Council, and National events, and Order of the Arrow events. We also coordinate with a few other Troops in the area to hold one or two joint events throughout the year.

In support of this 'renewal' process, Scouts will, as in past years, soon receive a survey link from SPL Murlin and myself. I encourage each Scout to also share their ideas and input with their Patrol Leaders. These avenues guide the Senior Patrol Leader and myself as we work with the Patrol Leader Council (PLC) to create the calendar for the new year. Every time the Troop does this there are some favorite outings that the scouts request to repeat year to year. Some outings change to keep the scout experiences fresh, bring something new, or even renew something old that hasn't been done in a number of years. Proving that 'everything old really is new again'.

This is an exciting time every year, but even more so this year. While I am VERY proud of our Scouts and their families doing an OUTSTANDING job navigating Safe Scouting through Covid times, we are entering this planning cycle with high hope for implementing the 2021-2022 calendar in the Fall with the pandemic finally a part of our history, rather than our future.

Stay strong. Remain vigilant. Be kind. Do the right thing. When in doubt, remember you're a Scout. Let the Scout Oath and Scout Law be your guide. Please reach out with any needs, input or questions, and, as always - Scout on!

APRIL TROOP CALENDAR		
Date	Activity & Time	Location
6	Troop Meeting - 7:30 pm	Haygood Gym
8	Benne Ackerman Eagle Scout Project Workday 10am-12noon	Lenox Wildwood Park
11	Board of Review 7:00 pm	Virtual
12	Troop Committee Meeting 7:30	Virtual
13	PLC Meeting 7:30 pm	Virtual
15	Summer Camp Online Signup Deadline - EOD	Online
16-18	Order of the Arrow Conclave Event Fri 5pm-Sun 9am	Valdosta, GA
20	Troop Meeting 7:30 pm	Haygood Gym
23-25	April Outing - Wilderness Survival Fri 5pm-Sun 11am	Bert Adams Scout Camp
27	Troop Meeting 7:30 pm	Haygood Gym
30	Order of the Arrow Spring Induction & Fellowship Weekend - Fri 5pm-Sun 10am	Woodruff Scout Camp



Mr. Todd Sharp  
Scoutmaster

[tc\\_s1@live.com](mailto:tc_s1@live.com)  
678.612.6297

## ADVANCEMENT CHAIR

Mr. Brady Lum  
[brady@lum.net](mailto:brady@lum.net)

Hello Troop 455 Family,  
Despite a challenging year, Scouts have been busy with Advancement activities. Here are some outstanding highlights since the beginning of this school year:

- 6 Scouts have ranked up to the next Rank level
- 9 Life Scouts are actively working hard towards Eagle Requirements
- 37 Merit Badges have been earned
- 6 other Awards have been earned

While this is great progress, it would be great to have EVERY Scout achieve at least one rank advancement at the May Court of Honor. Currently, we have 282 Merit Badges in progress with at least one requirement completed. We have nearly 100 Merit Badges with 50% or more of the requirements completed. So with a little more effort, we could have a very big celebration in May!

Here is what I am asking of each Scout:

**Carefully review your current Advancement Report:** Each of you can run this directly in Scoutbook. Separately, I will send a PDF to each Scout via email. Please inform me of any discrepancies you find. The transition from Troopmaster to Scoutbook was thorough, but it remains a manual process in many cases. It is up to each and every Scout to verify that the SB records match their own records. I cannot make adjustments unless you contact me directly.

**Complete Partial Merit Badges:** There are several hundred partial merit badges in SB. Many of them are 50-75% complete. Push yourself to complete one or more of them this school year. Many of these might have begun at Camp or some other outing. If you are in need of a Merit Badge Counselor to complete them, or are otherwise stuck on how to complete a Merit Badge, please reach out to me and/or Scoutmaster Sharp.

**Check your Activities Report for Accuracy:** Keeping track of camping nights, service hours, and hiking miles has been an inaccurate science to say the least. Please check Scoutbook to make sure that you are comfortable that the activity records match your personal records. Please reach out to me with any issues. I will be working with the PLC and the Adult Leadership to put in place a better system to more consistently your activities. Each of these activity tallies has implications for many awards, MBs and ranks achievements.

**For Scouts up to First Class:** Please make sure that you, other Scouts, and Adult Leaders are using Scoutbook to mark off your requirements in Scoutbook. It is helpful to have both your physical Scout Handbook and the online Scoutbook in sync. If you have any questions on how to do that, please reach out to me or another Adult Leader.

Congratulations on all the great work you have accomplished! Remember that at the end of the day, each Scout owns the accuracy of his record. I am always available by email at [brady@lum.net](mailto:brady@lum.net) with any questions about your Advancement Records. Please don't wait until the last minute to discover issues -- all can be resolved with good planning and time.

### HIGH ADVENTURE SPOTS STILL AVAILABLE

Troop 455 still has two slots available for the St. Croix High Adventure Scuba trip, July 25 - August 1, for scouts 13 or older who are Open Water certified. For more info, contact Mr. Brady Lum, [brady@lum.net](mailto:brady@lum.net)

### Troop 455 Committee:

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

OF

REVIEW  
Mr. Pierce Pape

Board of Review (BOR) Updates:

[TakeTheHillPjP@gmail.com](mailto:TakeTheHillPjP@gmail.com)

1. BOR March: We did not have any scouts request a BOR.
2. BOR April: Sunday, April 11th at 7:00PM - **Troop 455 needs 3 volunteers for Sunday April 11th - 7:00pm - for two BORs. If you have availability, please email Pierce Pape directly at [TakeTheHillPjP@gmail.com](mailto:TakeTheHillPjP@gmail.com). Thank you!**

Happy Trails - this is Pierce (P.J.) Pape. I am a parent volunteer leading the Haygood BSA Troop 455 Boards of Review (BOR).

Did you know that scouts can't advance to their next rank without going through a Board of Review? Did you also know Boards of Review are made up of parent volunteers? Parents, in essence, give the "final approval" and serve as the final check on ranking scouts for the troop. Once Scoutmaster Sharp gives Brady Lum and myself the nod that a scout is ready, parents conduct the final Board of Review (BOR).

We need all of our Troop 455 parents to volunteer for BORs each year. Count on my support to provide you with all the background information you'll need! I also provide specific questions to ask the scouts during the BOR. A BOR is currently conducted via Zoom. We need three parent volunteers on every BOR. Zoom BOR calls usually require about 40 minutes each. Hopefully, we will return to in person BOR meetings at Haygood UMC soon. It's not difficult and you don't need to watch an hour long video to do this :), and it's important to all of our scouts in Troop 455.

During a BOR, it is really fun to hear a scout's perspective regarding their involvement with the troop. I'd be willing to guess that you would also feel a bit proud for helping a Scout during their Board of Review. You'll see young boys grow into young men through their accomplishments. Scouts aren't working on these kinds of achievements at school, so Scouts USA helps to close gaps in learning that can lead to success in life.

## YOUTH TRAINING

Mr. Mickey Smith,  
Adult Training Chair  
[smit4789@bellsouth.net](mailto:smit4789@bellsouth.net)

The Atlanta Area Council's website is a wealth of information for all things scouting. It's especially good at providing information for youth training.

Here's a link <https://www.atlantabsa.org/youthtraining> that provides info on BSA Youth Leader training. Note that Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST) is a required prerequisite for National Youth Leader Training (NYLT). The next ILST is scheduled for May 2nd. Registration closes on April 24th.

ILST is suggested as an annual training event for the troop. I noticed they are also offering this at the Volunteer Service Center (Scout Shop) on specific dates this year. It's designed to give new youth leaders ideas, thoughts and techniques to be successful in their new roles while allowing experienced scout leaders to share their knowledge and experience to elevate troop leadership.

There are very few born leaders. Some of us work on our leadership skills our entire lives and still have things we would like to improve. ILST and NYLT are offered to help scouts develop their leadership skills. I hope to see you take advantage of these offerings!

## ORDER OF THE ARROW UPDATE Zack Strange, OA Unit Representative

We have some big events coming up this month, beginning with Conclave, April 16-18, at Camp Patten in Lakeland, GA. It's a bit of a drive, but is worth every second. Members from across Georgia and even from Alabama and Florida congregate for this large camparee style event. Sign-up will close soon so be sure to sign up ASAP. You will need to register with both the Lodge and the Section 9 (our regional group):

Lodge: <https://aacegwa.org/> and go to Register for Lodge Events

Section 9: <https://www.sr-9.org/gathering>

In other news, for any inductees wanting to go through Ordeal, there is a Spring Induction on April 30-May 2nd. Deadline to sign up is April 19th. You can register with the lodge: <https://aacegwa.org/> and click on either "Current Lodge Members Event Information and Registration" or "Candidate Induction Information and Registration"

There is a Bert Adams Work Day from 8 am to noon on May 15th.

That is all the news from OA, and I hope to see you there!

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

**Ms. Laurel Miyake, Summer Camp Coordinator**  
[bsa455summercamp@gmail.com](mailto:bsa455summercamp@gmail.com)

**Summer Camp Sign Up is Online Only** (<https://forms.gle/zxADm7ycUMsvTpFW9>)

Complete online signup before April 15 to be registered for classes on opening day & avoid waitlists. A payment email will be sent soon after sign up is received. Camp gives Scouts unique opportunities to gain life skills & confidence through fun outdoor activities. Scouts who attend camp, return with great memories, friends, & maturity, and have deeper commitments to Scouting. Choose from 80+ Merit Badge classes & programs. New scouts take Rawhide, Swimming & First Aid. Older Scouts may add Whitewater Kayaking, COPE, and Leadership, Rank, & Advancement Seminars.

Due Dates	Required Forms	Required Payments
4/15	Online Sign Up Submitted / BSA Medical Forms A & B + Insurance	\$375 Paid
5/1	BSA Medical Form C	
5/15	Tenting Requests (if allowed) & Carpool Assignments made	

**March Outing Recap**  
**Anderson Smith-Cote, Quartermaster**

Hello! It is I, Anderson, your friendly neighborhood Outing Leader for the March Outing, Scout Olympics, with the download on what went down during our marvelous March Outing!

Scouts from Troop 455 and Webelos from Pack 17 came together last weekend at Bert Adams for Olympic Games training and to refresh everyone on Scout Skills and outdoor fun. The very questionable weather forecast gave way to perfect temperatures and rain-free skies with a heavy dose of pollen. Special features for the outing included not one but TWO Campfire Programs - Friday's was a Zach attack with special guest Mr. Strange on guitar! (Beware of Beaver Sharks!!!!) and Saturday's program was emceed by Sawyer. Both nights included fire, skits and songs, Webelos, and were topped off with Manhunt!



Custom outing badges  
 courtesy of Lissa  
 Smith-Cote, ASM

Saturday's games had something for everyone starting off with the creation of 3 outing-only patrols complete with flags and yells. There were rescue carries, poisonous plant identification, outdoor ethics ball toss games, and the now famous rescue of the water bottle from the tree! Games wrapped up with an orienteering challenge where everyone won a special token from the outing!



Fire.

A surprise tent inspection refreshed basic camping skills. Several scouts completed merit badge requirements and rank advancements and our newest scout, Ishaan, earned his Totin' Chit and Fireman Chit. All the Webelos earned parts of their Arrow of Light Award and we look forward to them crossing over into Troop 455.

The outing closed on Sunday with a brief Scout's Own Service and ended on a high note with a celebration of Sawyer's birthday! Thank you to all the scouts and adults, especially Mr. Anthony, the adult leader for this outing who helped make this outing happen. Everyone did an awesome job. If you are missing any items from the outing please check with Mr. Anthony ([manthony@outlook.com](mailto:manthony@outlook.com)) for Lost and Found.

