



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition- Support the District! Camp Locally!

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## Here Ye! Here Ye! Council News

The latest news from Council is that the office is still closed until April 30<sup>th</sup>. This date is subject to change as we get further into the month of April. We are looking at the CDC and New York Governor, Cuomo, for guidance. We will be following our local school districts in how to proceed since a lot of our units use schools as a meeting place. If you go to our website: [www.sccbsa.org/matcovid19](http://www.sccbsa.org/matcovid19), there will be up to date information that will help you stay informed and come up with creative ways to keep your scouts engaged with the program during our quarantine. Our Council is offering [Virtual Merit Badges](#) to help keep your scouts learning and achieving their goals. Page 9 is dedicated to Merit Badges so make sure to check it out. Also, check out this inspiring [video](#) from National to help keep the spark alive. I want everyone to know that the quarantine has put forth barriers, but nothing is slowing down our commitment to provide a quality program for our youth. We are more determined than ever to keep pushing through and keep **preparing our young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime.**

## Matinecock District Facebook:

We have a District Page called, [Matinecock District](#), and we would love for you to join us so we can share valuable information with you quickly. This is a great tool for us to help you. There will be “How to” videos, merit badge programs, activities, etc. Search for Matinecock District and let’s get better connected. Here is our link to our Facebook page or you can click on the link above.

## This Year, Camp Locally at Baiting Hollow Scout Camp

Local businesses are taking a huge hit due to the COVID-19. Even our favorite stores are closing shop and may never come back. You may have been seeing post, memes, news announcements, celebrities, and fellow business owners saying, “Once the threat of COVID-19 has pass, please shop locally to help support our community.” This is also true for your Suffolk County Council. A lot of wonderful activities that Baiting Hollow puts together had to be put on hold or cancelled altogether. Baiting Hollow Scout Camp is a big part of the Council’s budget and COVID-19 has affected us the same way as our local businesses.

This year, we are asking our Matinecock District, once the quarantined has lifted and the COVID-19 threat has pass, please consider camping at Baiting Hollow this year to help support our Council and our District. We are all in this together and we could use your support. Let us hope this pandemic does not carry into the summer and affect our summer camp program that so many of our kids love to be part of.

But while we are quarantine, here is a way that you can still support local businesses:

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Shop local. We’re in this together.

Local businesses need your support now more than ever.



**Get it to go.** Order from your local restaurants and bars via delivery service, to-go, or curbside pickup.



**Shop small online.** Websites haven’t closed and it’s important to leave positive reviews for local vendors and businesses.



**Buy in advance.** Purchase gift cards or book services from local businesses to use at a future date.



**Stay looped in.** Keep up with your memberships, and with services that are still offered online.



**Follow along.** Your favorite local businesses are online and sharing specific ways you can support them.



**Say thank you.** Many business owners and workers are risking their health to provide critical products and services. Be thankful.

## Online BSA and District Training

Our Matinecock District is adapting to the curve balls that are being thrown to us. We are taking the lead in our Council and we are offering the first virtual-in person Scoutmaster Training. This is the best opportunity if you have leaders that haven't taken Scoutmaster training or volunteers that will be stepping up as Scoutmasters. Our Training Chairperson, Greg Aylmer, has been working hard to provide this training for you. Click on the link below to register! Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

[Scoutmaster Training](#)

**Virtual in person training on:**

**April 21 and 23rd**

**April 28 and 30<sup>th</sup>**

**From 8:00pm-9:00pm**

Now, for training that has always been available to you online! This is a great time to get your re-certification out of the way for Youth Protection Training and your Hazardous Weather Training. If you don't know how, forgot how, or never done it before, here is [a step by step procedure](#) on how to get to Youth Protection Training and Hazardous Weather Training. You can also find lots of useful trainings inside the BSA Learning Center once you log into my <https://my.scouting.org/>. There is training ranging from Program Safety, Specific Leadership Training, Den Leader Training, Unit Commissioner, etc. The Scouting world is immense and there is always something new you can learn. Explore the BSA Learning Center and see if any training can be useful. Statistics do show that the more trained leaders you have; the better of a program your unit will offer, and which will lead to more kids wanting to join the program.

## Good Vibes and Good Times

We want to hear more about what your unit is doing! Send us a link so we can add it into a new section in the Quaran-Times called "Good Vibes and Good Times". We want to hear more uplifting stories from our local Packs, Troops, Crews, Ships and Explorers. Send the link to the [editor](#) of Quaran-times and we will add your story! Let us know what you are up to!

## Meet our new District Membership Chairperson



This is Cathy Braithewaite, our new District Membership Chairperson, taking over for Mr. Rich Wisnewski, from Troop 409. We thank you Rich for your service and wish you the best of luck on your Scouting career.

Mrs. Braithewaite took the role in March and she has hit the ground running. She has reached out to most of our units via email and phone. She has been a Scout mom since 2014 starting at Pack 66. She has taken the roles such as: Den leader, popcorn kernel, marketing, Membership Committee Member and Committee Chair for Pack 66 through the years. Her son, David, recently moved up to the Scouts BSA program with Troop 34 and we are expecting wonderful things from him. She has the following in person Training - Baloo training, hazard training, Committee Chair trained, Leave No Trace, and while completing 107 courses online for BSA. With all her experiences and knowledge, she is helping the Matinecock District grow in membership and helping Units that need some extra support. And of course, your Key 3: District Executive (Tali Powell), District Commissioner, and District Chairperson (Don Ghee) will always be there to support all our units. Please give her a friendly Matinecock hello and we appreciate you stepping up into the role of District Membership Chair. We know you are going to do great things!

## Religious Emblems and Scholarships

Did you know that you can do 90% of any religious emblems while sitting at the computer? It's true. You can accomplish most of the requirements by going to an online service called [Pray](#). From here, you should be able to navigate and click the religious emblem you are trying to achieve, and it will go over what you need to do to accomplish that. You can also click on this link: [How to earn Religious emblems](#) that is on our [Matinecock Website](#). On our website, you will also find How to set up your own religious emblem program. Just click on the tab a Scout is Reverent to find out more.

Do you think any of our Jewish scouters are interested in getting a scholarship to help support their education? **There is a \$250 scholarship available (submission deadline of May 31, sent to [Phyllis Stein](#))** for any HS Senior, Jewish Scout that has earned ANY of the Jewish religious emblems and that will be heading off to college in the fall -- one \$250 scholarship each for an Eagle Scout and one for a Life or Star Scout. Contact me ([Phyllis](#)) for more info--we need to give the youths a chance to know about and then follow up on this opportunity. This is the third year that the Jewish War Veterans (Mickey Marcus Post in Port Jeff) is hosting this essay contest to all the SCC BSA graduating seniors.

## Arrow of Light and Webelos Crossing over to Scouts BSA

In the heart of March, most of Cub scouts are crossing over to Troops to take part in our Scout BSA program. But with the pandemic, it has interfered with the Arrow of Light Ceremony and most of leaders are caught off guard like a deer in a headlight. In this section, allow me to dim the light so you can see the path we need to take and give you some advice on what steps Troops should take during the pandemic for our new scouts.

Several troops have reached out asking if Webelos who have earned their arrow of light need to wait for their Blue and Gold or bridging ceremony to begin working with them? This question is especially pertinent due to several Blue and Golds currently on hold due to COVID-19. Webelos **DO NOT** need to wait. Follow these steps to get those Webelos officially into a Scouts BSA troop and working on advancements:

1. The pack must make sure the Arrow of Light is entered into the advancement system.
2. The youth must submit a new youth application as a transfer scout to the Scouts BSA troop they are joining.
3. The Troop Committee Chair must sign it and submit to council. You can submit the youth application to [Taliesin Powell](#) and/or [Joann Vallillo](#).

This can all be done by email as the application can be filled out, signed and scanned then emailed.

If those scouts want to return to their pack once a Blue and Gold or bridging ceremony is rescheduled, they can do so but again this is not necessary.

The transitioning from Cub scouts to Scouts BSA can be a whirlwind of an experience. They are coming from a program where there is a lot of hand holding and parents running the program to youth figuring out things on their own and the youth running the show. We are recommending that Troops please give those new scouts the attention they deserve. If they become to overwhelmed without any help, they could leave the program due to confusion, frustration, and intimidation. You can alleviate these stresses by conducting a separate virtual meeting with the new scouts to get them better acquainted with your program. During this platform, you can let them know what you expect of them, how you run your Troop, guidelines and rules your Troop has laid out, and who to contact if you have any question. This is a great opportunity to reach out to them and welcome them into the Troop. You can even pass along this E-Newsletter to them so they can get started on merit badges, religious emblems, etc. Please don't forget about your new scouts. This is all unfamiliar territory and a helping hand could mean the difference of an Eagle Scout or a drop out.

## Eagle Scout Coaches

David Hunt, our District Advancement Chairperson, and District Eagle Coach has been helping over 90 Eagle Scouts every year for the past three years. Not only is he an amazing friend to us all but a wonderful coach to all those young men and women seeking the most prestigious award in the Scouting program. He has learned so much from one of Matinecock's greatest Eagle coaches; the late Herbert McGrail, who had helped coach over 1,200 Scouts to earn the rank of Eagle. Mr. McGrail always preached that 1 on 1; one Eagle Coach to one potential Eagle Scout is the best method to give our scouts the best opportunity and experience. If you ever been to an Eagle Court of Honor, it is impossible not to feel inspired and not to feel an overwhelming sense of pride. For those have received the Mentor Pin for helping a scout earn the rank of Eagle, there is no better feeling than knowing you helped a young scout reach their full potential.

Mr. Hunt informed us on April 7<sup>th</sup> Virtual Roundtable that at the end of the year he will be stepping down as our District Advancement Chairperson and taking over as our new Council President. His replacement, Joseph Pokorny, who has been working alongside Mr. Hunt for many years and has been doing a wonderful job. We thank him for stepping up and taking on such an important role.

The problem that is occurring is that we have close to 100 or more scouts trying to earn the rank of eagle every year and not enough Eagle Coaches to honor Mr. McGrail's method. *We are looking for more eagle coaches to help give the 1 on 1 attention to every potential eagle scout. We need one volunteer from every Troop to be an eagle coach.* It is a good problem to have but we need more help to make sure no scout falls behind because there was not enough support. Please consider taking on this prestigious role and email Taliesin Powell, District Executive, if you are willing to step up and make a difference. Email me at: [Taliesin.powell@scouting.org](mailto:Taliesin.powell@scouting.org)

## Virtual Tours

You can close your eyes and image what it would be like to swim with a Whale Shark. Or imagine overseeing the assembly line of one of the first cars to be made. What about going to France? Known for its cuisine, culture, and beautiful sites. Even though we are stuck at home doesn't mean we are "stuck". There are so many wonderful ways to discover the world by a click of the mouse. There are so many cool Virtual Tours that are being offered. You and your scouts can travel across town or across an entire ocean while sitting at your computer. Here is 5 Virtual Tours you can do right now!

[Theodore Roosevelt Home, Sagamore Hill](#) / [Ford Piquette Avenue Plant](#) /

[The Louvre Museum](#) / [The Van Gogh Museum](#) / [Georgia Aquarium](#)

Always try to look at the positive side of a situation. A lot of these places are allowing free virtual tours in response to the COVID-19. There are so many more places you can discover and experience. Click on the [30 Best Free Virtual Tours](#) and see which one's interest your scouts.

## New Member Coordinator and Unit Commissioners:

### Understaffed

The Matinecock District is in a current dry spell when it comes to help. I feel like we keep going to the same people and asking them to take on yet another responsibility. We keep asking them to wear another hat. There are so many wonderful, smart, and driven parents out there in your units that are sitting on the sidelines waiting for **THE ASK**.

“**WHAT IS THE ASK**”, you might say. The Ask is when you approach a parent and/or volunteer and ASK them to take part in the program whether it be: Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, New Member Coordinator, Treasurer, etc. This program was never meant to do alone, but getting sideline parents or adults to help is never going to happen if you don't make THE ASK. It's like playing the lottery: “You will never win the power ball if you don't play”. Let the new scout parents know that the unit needs support from all the parents, not just from the same three people.

We are looking for **two** positions that need to be filled out from every unit. [A New Member Coordinator](#) and [Unit Commissioner](#). These positions will help keep the unit healthy and keep new kids coming in so there will always be a scout at every rank.

*What does a [A New Member Coordinator](#) do?*

In general, all unit-level New Member Coordinators:

- Serve as welcoming ambassadors for the unit.
- Work with the unit committee in developing and implementing the Unit Membership Plan.
- Participate in New Member Coordinator training and collaborate with the district membership team.

New Member Coordinators can be a game-changer for membership retention as well as recruitment

*What does a [Unit Commissioner](#) do?*

In general, the unit commissioner is the connecting link in the chain between the troop and the pack. Often, the same unit commissioner will serve both a pack and troop in the same community/area.

If you are interested in giving back to our program and have a good relationship with our Packs and Troops, please click on the links above to find out more about the position(s). These positions will help keep the communication strong for our district and make sure that all units get the 1 on 1 treatment they deserve. Our new District Membership Chairperson, Mrs. Cathy Braithewaite, and your District Executive, Taliesin Powell, are working hard to create more units, start feeder Packs for Troops that don't have one, and offer our program to every kid in our District but we can't do it without your help and support. We need more volunteers to fill in these positions to make sure we get complete coverage of every unit in our District. These positions make a huge difference in making sure that every kid has an opportunity to join our program and keeps the communication between district and units strong.

## Popcorn Fundraiser Breakfast Kickoff

There are so many reasons to get involved with our [Popcorn fundraiser](#). With the membership fee increased and the COVID-19 derailing a lot of our units Spring fundraisers, the [Popcorn fundraiser](#) can be answer to your unit's financial support. The Popcorn Fundraiser has helped units raise so much money from our fundraiser that they can go on many adventures, buy supplies for their unit, pay for scouter and leaders membership fees, and take that dream trip with their scouts and leaders. The [Popcorn fundraiser](#) has also helped kids earn money for their education, is statistically proved to help boost membership numbers, and create more connections with your community. Remember, they are not buying popcorn but rather supporting their local scout Pack, Troop, Crew, Ship, or Explorer.

Our Suffolk County Council is extending our invitation for the [Popcorn Fundraiser Kickoff Breakfast](#) to all Matinecock unit's. The breakfast kickoff is on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ Courtyard by Marriott from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM. Due to the size of the venue, we can allow **only 2 guest per unit** to attend. You will get **free** delicious breakfast and learn about how our Popcorn fundraiser can help support your unit. You will hear testimony from other units, best trade practices, mobile app assistance, incentives for the year, awards and prizes, and helpful tips and tricks on getting the most out of your fundraiser. There is no cost to sign up for the [Popcorn Fundraiser Kickoff Breakfast](#). Click on the link and let us know that you will be there. There is no need to wait to sign up to see how the COVID-19 virus may affect the date. Once you sign up, you will receive information about the breakfast such as: date changes, location changes, etc. Please sign up and find out how the fundraiser can support your unit!

## Safety Moments

As a Council, we want to install a new culture in our unit's meeting, committee meeting, roundtable, district meetings, council meetings, etc., by talking about [safety moments](#) as a small part of your program. [Safety moments](#) are part of our motto: "Be Prepared." We want to keep our scouters and leaders as safe as possible. If we address certain situations now, the better prepared we will be in the future on how to deal with the problem or better yet; avoid the problem. Boy Scouts of America have a list of topics that can corelate directly to your future activity.

With units adapting to the new normalcy by partaking in virtual meetings, there are rules and procedures that our Risk Management Committee and SCCBSA would recommend that you follow in order to protect yourself and your scouts. Please read the [Virtual Meeting Protection Guideline](#) that goes over virtual meeting procedures, tips and tricks, pit falls to avoid, and guidelines from the FBI.

I know masks are in demand and new policies are being put in place by our State to say you must wear a cloth mask around your face when you go outside. Here is our Assistant Roundtable Commissioner for the Packs, Jim Maltese, going over ["how to use your neckerchief as a face mask."](#)

Remember to make [Safety Moments](#) as part of your meeting program. Thank you so much for keeping our kids and safe!

## Virtual Merit Badge Classes

Suffolk County Council: under the leadership of [Kim Russell](#), has been putting together over 20 merit badge courses. We have had scouts from all over the United States sign up for these classes from California to New York. A lot of scouters are craving the opportunity to still be involve and still earn their merit badges while we are practicing social distancing. With the use of technology, you can go to our [Virtual Merit Badge](#) to see what classes are available and which merit badges are coming soon.

The majority of these classes have been filled up but we are looking to create more sets of [Virtual Merit Badge](#) classes but we need more Merit Badge Counselors willing to sign up and teach a virtual class. If you are interested and you are a Merit Badge Counselor, than please reach out to [Kim Russell](#) and let her know you are interested in teaching a merit badge class, which merit badge you want to teach, and what time frame you are looking at. I have a lot of parents asking me if the Council is going to do another round of virtual merit badge courses because the scouts are really enjoying it. We would love to have 58 merit badges available to choose from, but we need the help from our Merit Badge Counselors. Please reach out to [Kim Russell](#) and let's give these kids the opportunity to knock out some merit badges while sitting at home.

And a very special thank you to all of our Merit Badge Counselors that been working hard with our kids and a special thank you to our Counselors that have taken part in the [Virtual Merit Badges](#). You are making a huge difference for our Scouters while scouting at home. You guys are the best!

## Admiration and Respect

The Suffolk County Council, BSA wants to take the opportunity to thank all our scouts and leaders for helping to keep the movement alive and coming up with creative ways to scout at home. It truly is inspiring.

We also want to send a **special thanks** to our essential workers across American and in our community sacrificing their health and lives to help other people fight this terrible virus. We want to thank our essential workers and let them know how much we appreciate their sacrifice. Thank you to our: Nurses, Doctors, Medical personnel, US Military, Grocery stores personnel, First responders, Police Officers, Volunteer Fire Fighters, Social workers, Public Safety personnel, Psychologists, Restaurant employees, Fast-Food employees, Food and Agriculture, Pet store employees, Electric Industry, Petroleum, Natural and Propane Gas, Water and Wastewater, Transportation and Logistics, and Waste Management personnel.

There are so many ways to express gratitude for our essential workers that your unit can take part in. You can write thank you letters, send health care workers food care packages, 7PM: Show your support by standing by your front door and clapping ([News 12 Story to show appreciation](#)), and/or you can create a Thank you video.

Check out [Pack 406 Thank You Video](#) for our Huntington Health Care workers.

## **Videos to Share with your Scouts and your Leaders:**

*We are encouraging every single Unit in the Matinecock District to make a video on a specific skill you pride yourself on. Share it with me ([Taliesin.powell@scouting.org](mailto:Taliesin.powell@scouting.org)) so I can post it on our Facebook page to show other unit's fun skills they can pass on to their scouts and leaders.*

## **On the Horizon- new Matinecock event Date Changes**

[SCCBSA Fellowship Banquet- June 11th](#)

[Excellence in Education Award Night honoring Steven Hartman- November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020](#)

[Matinecock/Benjamin Tallmadge Spring Camporee- October 2-4<sup>th</sup>, 2020](#)

*District Pinewood Derby Race- Postponed until further notice but will happen this year*

*District Dinner- Cancelled*

[Manor Farm Field Day- May 17<sup>th</sup>- but is subject to change due to CDC guidelines](#)

[Andrew McMorris Walk-a-thon- November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020](#)

**REMINDER: All this information can be found on our district website:**

[\*\*https://www.sccbsa.org/matinecock\*\*](https://www.sccbsa.org/matinecock)

**Any news or information regarding COVID-19 can be found on:**

[\*\*https://www.sccbsa.org/MatCOVID\*\*](https://www.sccbsa.org/MatCOVID)

**Or on our Matinecock ScCBSA Facebook page: [\*\*https://www.facebook.com/matdistrict/\*\*](https://www.facebook.com/matdistrict/)**