



## MIDNIGHT SUN COUNCIL - OCT 2024 NEWS!



United Way  
of Tanana Valley

As a United Way agency the Midnight Sun Council has various resources at their disposal to help with food, shelter, and other needs. Here is their website:

<https://unitedwaytv.com/>

[To see more upcoming events and activities, please visit our website](#)

## Midnight Sun Council News 15 October, 2024

### IMPORTANT DATES

See what's happening!  
([click here for complete calendar](#))

**SCOUT SHOP AND COUNCIL OFFICE ARE BACK TO  
WINTER HOURS: OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00 AM  
TO 5:00 PM**

#### October 2024

Oct 17 - Bush District Roundtable @ 6:15 pm  
Oct 17 - Bush District Meeting @ 6:45 pm  
Oct 18-19 Haunted Trail, 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm  
Oct 22 - Eagle Books due  
Oct 24 - TV District & Commissioner Meeting @ 6:00 pm  
Oct 25-26 Haunted Trail, 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm  
Oct 27 - Popcorn orders are due  
Oct 29 - Eagle Board (by appointment only)

#### November 2024

Nov 7 - TV District Roundtable  
Nov 20 - Bush District Roundtable @ 6:15 pm  
Nov 20 - Bush District Meeting @ 6:45 pm  
Nov 22 - TV District & Commissioner Meeting  
Nov 27 - Council Office and Scout Shop CLOSED  
Nov 28-29 - Council Office and Scout Shop CLOSED in  
observance of Thanksgiving

#### December 2024

Dec 3 - Eagle Books due  
Dec 4 - Distinguished Citizens Banquet  
Dec 5 - TV District Roundtable  
Dec 10 - Eagle Board (by appointment only)  
Dec 18 - Bush District Roundtable @ 6:15 pm  
Dec 18 - Bush District Meeting @ 6:45 pm  
Dec 19 - TV District & Commissioner Meeting  
Dec 20 - Council Office and Scout Shop CLOSED for  
INVENTORY  
Dec 23 - Jan 3, 2025 - Council Office and Scout Shop  
CLOSED for INVENTORY

### Volunteer of the Month



Our Volunteer of the Month is Kyle Green.

Kyle earned his Eagle Scout rank in 2005 when he was a member of Troop 47.

Kyle works for the University Fire Department and he is actively involved with Pack 92 as an Assistant Cubmaster, where he has two Cub Scouts, and on the District Committee.

He is the Tanana Valley District Training Committee Chair along with the Youth Protection Champion. Kyle helps to coordinate District Trainings such as the IOLS training and the University of Scouting that were just offered.

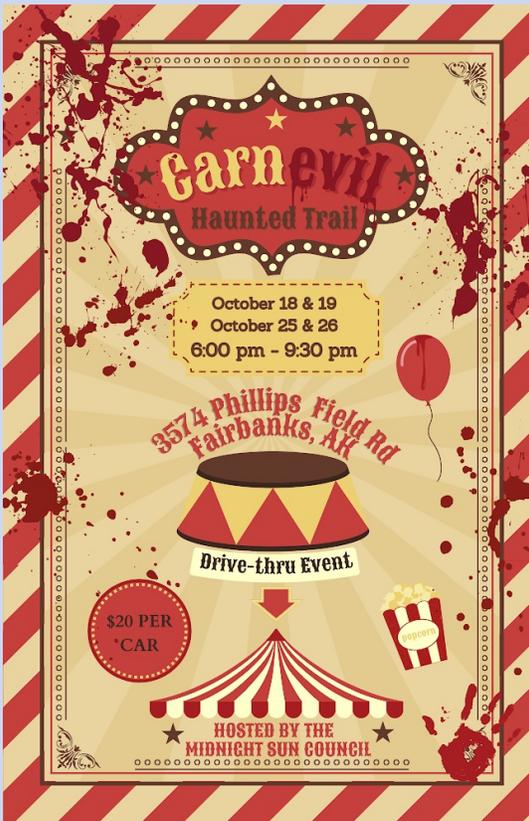


**Starting September 1, 2024, changes were made to our Youth Protection Guidelines. The first change is that Youth Protection is now being known as Safeguarding Youth.**

**Some highlights are changing the buddy system, sleeping accommodations, and reiterating some already known rules.**

**Please [click here](#) or on image to view/download a breakdown of the changes**

## SAVE THE DATE!!



Our Fundraiser starts this Friday!

Candy Donations for this event will be accepted at the Council Office.

We need help putting together candy bags this week and we need at least two adults or older Scouts to help Tasmine greet people at the gate and collect money. Helping Tasmine will be outside, but you will have a chance to take breaks in the ticket booth and warm up.

Please email Tasmine if you can help with

For all that you do to support Cub Scouting through your Pack and for making sure that all volunteers have the opportunity to get the training needed for their positions, we want to thank you Kyle!

## Updates to the Guide to Safe Scouting

In order to keep Scouts safe, National updates the Guide to Safe Scouting periodically.

Below are links to changes made in August. Please read & share.

August 2024 Updates to the Guide to Safe Scouting

- [Updated Scouting's Barriers to Abuse with additional resource information.](#)
- [Updated prohibited activities \(eliminating hunting exemption\)](#)
- [Updated Age-Appropriate Chart](#)

## ScoutingU Releases Updated "Climb on Safely"

In collaboration with the National COPE and Climbing Subcommittee, ScoutingU has released an updated version of "Climb on Safely" online training that is also mobile compatible. Climb on Safely online training ensures that adult leaders are prepared to plan for climbing events for their units. To access the updated training, log onto my.Scouting.org and search the catalog in the BSA Learn Center for "Climb on Safely."

For additional information regarding COPE and Climbing programs, please refer to the Guide to Safe Scouting and the Belay on manual.

## FAQs

**Q.** Does Climb on Safely training have to be renewed?

**A.** Yes, adults supervising a climbing activity must have completed Climb on Safely training within the previous two years.

**Q.** Do I need to take the new version of Climb on Safely training if my current training is not expired?

**A.** No, you can complete the updated version when your current certification expires.

**Q.** Is Climb on Safely training available to

## ScoutingU Releases Required Range Activity SAFETY Online Training for Unit Leaders

In collaboration with the National Range & Target Activities Subcommittee, ScoutingU has launched the new "Range Activity SAFETY" online training, which is now also accessible on mobile devices. The primary goal of Scouting America's range and target activities is first and foremost centered around teaching safety.

This new Range Activity SAFETY online training equips adult leaders with the knowledge to help support SAFE range and target activities at the unit level for Scouts BSA troops, Venturing crews, and Sea Scout ships. It's important to note that Cub Scout packs are not permitted to lead unit-level range and target activities. This training is not required for district or council led range and target activities. This training is also not a replacement for certified instructors who must be present to operate the ranges. To access the updated training, log onto [my.Scouting.org](http://my.Scouting.org) and search the catalog in the BSA Learn Center for "Range Activity SAFETY."

For additional information regarding Scouting's Range and Target Activities, please refer to the Guide to Safe Scouting and the National Range and Target Activities Manual.

### FAQs

Q. Who must take Range Activity SAFETY online training?

A. *At a minimum, all Scouts BSA troops, Venturing crews, and Sea Scout ships who provide unit-level sponsored/planned range and target activities must have at least one registered unit leader 21+ years of age take the Range Activity SAFETY online training at my.Scouting. This individual must be present at the range during the activity. This training is not required for district or council led range and target activities.*

Q. Does Range Activity SAFETY online training have to be renewed?

A. *Yes, each unit must have at least one adult 21+ years of age present at the activity who has taken the training within the previous two years.*

take in person?

A. *No, currently the training is only available online. It is also mobile compatible. There may be an in person syllabus in the future.*

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## Get ready for Jamboree-on-the-Air, Jamboree-on-the- Internet



Every year, more than 2 million Scouts from more than 170 countries log online or turn on a ham radio for the largest Scouting events in the world: [Jamboree-on-the-Air](#) (JOTA) and [Jamboree-on-the-Internet](#) (JOTI).

[Click here to read more...](#)

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## Journey to Excellence (JTE) Unit Recognition Program to Be Retired

Effective December 31, 2024, the Journey to Excellence unit recognition program will be retired. Moving forward, metrics for Scouting and Exploring unit success will be seamlessly integrated into unit leader support materials and resources. These metrics will be consistent with those used by the Commissioner corps to support Scouting and Exploring units. This new approach aims to provide a consistent and more streamlined and effective method for evaluating and enhancing unit performance.

Feedback from unit leaders and survey results played a crucial role in making this decision. We believe this transition will better support our unit leaders and ultimately improve the experience for all participants as we continue to develop and deliver relevant programs.

Units can continue to purchase 2024 Journey to Excellence recognition items through December 31, 2025.

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## Troop 38 B & G put on an awesome Fall Camporee!

Q. Is Range Activity SAFETY training available to take in person?  
A. No, Range Activity SAFETY training is only available online. It is also mobile compatible.



♥Our Pack 92 wanted to thank the wonderful Fairbanks Community for contributing to our Food Bank Food Drive.

We also wanted to thank Fred Meyers

West for allowing our scouts to do our collection.

We donated 417 pounds of food and \$112 from our 6 hour collection.



The Amazing Race was a lot of fun and Scouts enjoy all the demonstrations the Army shared with them.

A full article will be shared in the next newsletter.



**Scouting  
America**

## Administrative Changes to the Membership and Unit Registration Period!

The following membership and unit registration administrative changes were announced:

Administrative changes to the membership expiration dates for all youth and adult members that joined starting August 2023.

This is to ensure that everyone is receiving the full 12 months of membership registration.

Extended the membership lapse period for everyone from 2 months to 3 months.

Extended the unit lapse period for every unit from 2 months to 3 months.

Administrative Change in Membership Expiration Dates.

Membership in Scouting America is annual. Below are examples of how this change affects new members beginning with those that joined in August of 2023.

- If you joined in August 2023, your expiration date was August 31, 2024
- If you joined in September 2023, your expiration date was September 30, 2024
- If you joined in October 2023, your expiration date is October 31, 2024
- If you joined in November 2023, your expiration date is November 30, 2024
- If you joined in December 2023, your expiration date is December 31, 2024
- If you joined in January 2024, your expiration date is January 31, 2025
- If you joined in February 2024, your expiration date is February 28, 2025

This membership cycle will continue to repeat moving forward.

Extension of Membership Lapse Period.

The 2-month membership renewal lapse period has been extended to 3 months. This change was made based on feedback from councils.

### Example 1:

If you joined in August 2023, your expiration was August 31, 2024

Your 3-month Lapse period started September 1, 2024, and ends November 30, 2024

Drop date is December 1, 2024

**Example 2:**

If you join in October 2024, your expiration date is October 31st, 2025  
Your 3-month Lapse period starts November 1, 2025, and ends January 31, 2026

Drop date is February 1, 2026

Unit Lapse Period Extension.

The 2-month unit renewal lapse period has been extended to 3 months. This change was made based on feedback from councils.

**Example:**

If your unit renewal month is December 2024, the unit lapse period starts January 1, 2025, and ends March 31, 2025

Drop date is April 1, 2025

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**SAVE THE DATE!!**

**FORTY FIRST ANNUAL  
DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS  
AWARD BANQUET**

Midnight Sun Council, Boy Scouts of America  
Salutes  
**Jo Kuchle & Gene Therriault**

Please join us Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
at the Westmarks Gold room  
6pm social hour - 7pm dinner  
Information & RSVP contact (907) 452-1976 or  
[Stacy.Brandon@Scouting.Org](mailto:Stacy.Brandon@Scouting.Org)  
\$125 per seat, tables and sponsorships are currently still available

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**Support Our Scouting Family:  
Donate to the Scouting Emergency Assistance Fund**

Dear Scouting Family,

The entire Scouting family is heartbroken over the damage left in the wake of the recent hurricanes. As the disaster continues to unfold, the loss of lives, livelihoods and property is beyond imagination. In addition to the devastation, the communities, and homes of many of our own dedicated Scouting employees have been damaged, flooded, or simply washed away.

The cleanup will take months and years. The impact on these families will last even longer.

## To Help Other People at All Times

As members of the Scouting family, we feel a duty to help. And while we may not be able to physically be there, we can still make a difference by giving to the Scouting America Emergency Assistance Fund. This is a special fund designated to support Scouting employees and councils impacted by natural disasters. 100% of your donation will go to aid those in need. By donating today, you can help families and councils begin to recover, rebuild, and care for their families.

We hope you'll help. Together, we can offer a hand-up to those who have committed so much of themselves to making our communities better through Scouting.

### [Donate Here](#)

Thank you for your continued thoughts and prayers for these families.

Yours in Scouting,

Roger Krone  
Chief Scout Executive  
President & CEO  
Scouting America

The Midnight Sun Council is looking to replace a number of canoes and is asking for your help.

We are looking for donations to put into our aquatics program fund that will help us purchase them. Any amount will help.

If your business or family are able to donate \$1,500 for the full amount of a canoe, we would be happy to recognize them in an appropriate manner.

Contact the Council Service Center, 907-452-1976, to make a donation or fill in the bottom section and return it to the office.



Aquatics Program Fund

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY Code \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Midnight Sun Council, BSA, 1400 Gillam Way, Fairbanks, AK 99701

## Help Needed - Canoe Fund!

We'd like to give our scouts the opportunity to enjoy their summer experiences a little more comfortably and with better equipment. To accomplish this, we are going to replace some canoes and begin a swap out program going forward. Some of our canoes are getting pretty old and have been well used.

Please help us in getting the word out to any business owners and community groups that you are affiliated with, using the [Canoe Fund Form \(click here to view/download\)](#)

We will start a temporarily restricted fund for donations, in order to purchase canoes and other aquatic equipment (row boats, paddles, oars, and lifejackets). Any remaining money will be kept in the fund to be used for future change outs, and we plan on building the fund over time. If a business, service club, or family would like to donate a full \$1,500, we will gladly recognize them in an appropriate manner, including a mention in our newsletter. The manner of recognition is yet to be determined.

We would like to purchase a minimum of 6 canoes before next season as our immediate concern. Who would like to join me in making a donation towards this worthy cause?

Checks can be made out to Midnight Sun Council and mailed to 1400 Gillam Way, Fairbanks, AK 99701. We also can take credit card payments over the phone at (907) 452 1976.

**CLICK ON IMAGES OR LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**FROM THE  
REGISTRAR**

**SCOUT SHOP  
NEWS**

## Follow-Up on BeAScout Leads!

With the start of marketing campaigns running across the nation in support of fall recruitment, it is more important than ever for units to follow-up on their beascout leads. Flyers, yard signs, social media content and many other marketing tactics are driving potential Scouting families to [beascout.org](http://beascout.org). Many of those people reach out to get questions answered and/or apply to become members.

The system, though, is not automatic. Each unit must respond to those "leads" and accept those new members. The more often a unit checks the system for those leads, the better the experience will be for those potential Scouting families.

For information on how to manage beascout leads, visit this site: <https://www.scouting.org/resources/online-registration/>

Let's help families connect with Scouting!

## New Yearly Registration Renewals

As a reminder, the new yearly registration renewals are beginning to come up for renewal. Please be understanding as we all learn this new process. As National is working out this new process, we are finding that the simplest way to get your renewal completed is to either stop by the Council office or call and we can do the renewal over the phone here. When you call, please ask for the Registrar, Linda. By registering at the Council office, you save on the credit card fee that is charged for the online registration and your renewal is completed within 24 hours. For units that have members registering online, please have a member of your Key 3 check for any renewing registrations that may have a pending approval associated with them.

**THE SCOUT SHOP IS  
OPEN AGAIN  
MONDAY - FRIDAY  
FROM 9 AM - 5 PM**

## Scout Shop New articles!!





## Greetings all Arrowman of Toontuk Lodge!!



Just a quick recap, Last month our lodge hosted its annual Fall Fellowship. We had a fun weekend of fellowship, games, and we were able to do some service from clearing brush to resupplying wood boxes.

Next up, we have **Lodge Leadership Development or LLD**. We'd really love a big turnout for this, it'll be from **November 15th to the 16th** and it will take place at the scout office. This event will cost \$20 unless you have the Season Pass.

The next event that we have will be the **Winter banquet** on **January 11th** where we'll have the swearing in of the officers and will also be handing out our yearly awards. More information will be announced soon but this event will cost \$50 unless you have the Season Pass.

Last big event coming up is going to be **Woodstoak**. It'll be from **March 21st to the 23rd** and we will be doing some more service as well of fellowship out at Lost lake. This event will cost \$20 unless you have the Season Pass.

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### 35th Annual Freeze Up Canoe Race Draws Thrilling Turnout

On a beautiful sunny and brisk morning, the 35th Annual Freeze Up Canoe Race, organized by the Kiwanis Club, attracted an enthusiastic crowd. With over 20 scouts from both the Girl Scouts and Scouts BSA participating in seven canoes across two heats, the event showcased community spirit and camaraderie. Lunch was generously provided by the Lions Club, featuring chili, hot chocolate, and hotdogs, fueling the excitement.

The canoe team of Noah, Wyatt, and Phoenix from Midnight Sun Council's Troop 20 clinched first place with an impressive time of 21 minutes and 4 seconds. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all participants and their families, as well as to the Kiwanis and Lions Clubs for their vital roles in making this event a success



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### Successful IOLS Course at the Fall Camporee

The Midnight Sun Council recently held its Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills (IOLS) course during the fall camporee at Fort Wainwright's Glass Park. This year's event welcomed 12 eager participants, each bringing a diverse range of experience and enthusiasm for outdoor leadership.

Throughout the course, attendees engaged in a variety of essential skills, including the use of woods tools, rope skills, map and compass navigation, and outdoor ethics. The hands-on instruction not only fostered a collaborative learning environment but also

equipped participants with practical knowledge that they can share with their scouts.

A special thank you is extended to Pat McCann and Mark Smurda for their invaluable contributions as instructors. Their expertise and guidance greatly enhanced the learning experience.

As we reflect on the successful completion of the IOLS course, we are confident that participants are now better prepared to teach their scouts the vital skills necessary for outdoor adventures. We look forward to seeing how they apply what they've learned in their future endeavors.

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## **Youth Protection Training (YPT) soon to be known as Safeguarding Youth**



**As part of the BSA's goal to become the National Leader in Youth Safety there are some changes coming to Youth Protection Training. The Unit Key-3 will no longer be able to edit the YPT dates. As of March 4th, 2024, the BSA will be requiring that the Criminal Background Check is completed before you can become an active adult leader.**

**Units that are rechartering, should encourage their leadership to check on and update their YPT if it has been at least a year since they last completed it. Remember that this can be done individually or the leadership can set up a training date for their unit to complete it all at the same time. Please remember that if your unit does their Youth Protection Training as a unit to turn in a Training Attendance report to the Council with the updated information. This form is available at the Council office or [click here to download](#)**

**As a reminder the Midnight Sun Council requires our adult leaders and merit badge counselors to complete their YPT yearly.**

**Please check your YPT training as some members are past the one year date required by the Midnight Sun Council.**

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## Good day everyone! Just a quick spotlight on a great opportunity for youth to express their own thoughts while earning college, tech school or any other higher learning scholarships!

(Deadlines are October!)

### **Voice of Democracy** (High Schoolers 9th through 12th Grade)

2024-2025 theme "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"

(Audio / Voice Recorded)

The national first place winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. A complete list of other national scholarships range from \$1,000-\$21,000, and the first-place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins at least a scholarship of \$1,000.

### **Patriot Pen** (6th through 8th Grade)

2024-2025 theme "My Voice in America's Democracy?"

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief.

For more info click <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships!>

Another program that recognizes outstanding youth, Scout of the Year Program: Applications due in March 2025. Eagle Scouts – Gold Stars – Quartermasters and the Summit Award winners in 2024 or prior are eligible until the age of 18.

Link for more info <https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/Scout-of-the-Year/ScoutoftheYearBrochureandEntryForm.pdf?v=1&amp;d=20210708T183715Z&la=en>

Contact CJ at [Clinton.Stewart@Scouting.Org](mailto:Clinton.Stewart@Scouting.Org)

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## Join Our Northern Lights High Adventure Staff!

Are you over 18, passionate about the outdoors, and eager for a summer filled with adventure? The Midnight Sun Council is excited to announce staffing opportunities for our Northern Lights High Adventure program! We're looking for dedicated individuals with experience in trekking, canoeing, and wilderness guiding. If you hold special certifications in these areas, we want to hear from you!

This is a rewarding opportunity to immerse yourself in the breathtaking Alaskan wilderness while guiding scouts through incredible outdoor experiences. However, we want to be upfront: this role will involve hard work, long days, and modest pay. You will be challenged both physically and mentally, but the fulfillment that comes from teaching and leading young adventurers is truly unparalleled.

Working with the Northern Lights High Adventure program means you'll be part of a supportive team, creating memories that last a lifetime—not just for the scouts, but for you as well. This is your chance to explore some of the most stunning landscapes Alaska has to offer while making a real impact on the lives of young people.

If you're ready to embrace the challenge and adventure of a lifetime, apply to be part of our Northern Lights High Adventure staff this summer!

To apply, please fill out the form below:

[High Adventure Staff application](#)

You can email your application to Stephen Smith at [stephen.smith@scouting.org](mailto:stephen.smith@scouting.org) or send it via mail to Midnight Sun Council, Attn: Stephen Smith, 1400 Gillam Way, Fairbanks, AK 99701

We look forward to your application and hope to see you this summer!

## NORTHERN LIGHTS HIGH ADVENTURE TREKS ARE BACK! CLICK HERE AND BOOK YOURS NOW!!



### BOOK YOUR 2025 TREK NOW!

Our Alaska High Adventure website is currently undergoing some changes and updates. Therefore it might not open for you or just partly open up. We apologize for any inconvenience this might cause.

For questions please contact the Council office at 907-452-1976 or find us on Facebook [@NorthernLightsHighAdventureBase](https://www.facebook.com/NorthernLightsHighAdventureBase)

## Congratulations to all our 2024 Eagle Scouts



**Myles Werle**  
*Troop 1001*  
Rotary Club of Fairbanks

**Henry Repasky**  
*Troop 1138*  
Midnight Sun Council, BSA

**Devin Emmett**  
*Troop 1042*  
North Star Volunteer Fire Dept. Station 1

**Slater Jones**  
*Troop 1078*  
Chena Kiwanis Club

*Trail to Eagle  
workbook*

*Midnight Sun Council Eagle  
Scout Candidate Checklist*

## Spread The Word About This Webinar: Free Money! Get Scholarship Tips From an Eagle Scout

The National Eagle Scout Association invites Scouts and families to attend this free webinar on scholarship application tips. Participants will get an insider's look at the NESAs scholarship program, including key details and opportunities.

The host will dive deep into tips and strategies that can help Scouts stand out in any scholarship application.

**Date & Time: Nov 7, 2024, 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)**

Preregister Here: [https://scouting-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_jYNDRyk1QMy2BX7oXVcsUA#/registration](https://scouting-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jYNDRyk1QMy2BX7oXVcsUA#/registration)

Visit the [Distinguished Eagle Scout Awards page](#) for more information. Updated timeline and FAQ attached.

**THANK YOU! to our 2024 Golden Eagle Sponsors**



Steve & Carol Adameczak  
Stephen Adams  
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Larry Bennett  
Tom and Frances Burke  
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SUPPORT**



Midnight Sun Council | (907) 452-1976 | 1400 Gillam Way, Fairbanks, AK 99701 | [www.midnightsunbsa.org](http://www.midnightsunbsa.org)

**CONTACT US**

Visit the Midnight Sun Council website for updates and more news and information!



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