

Del-Mar-Va Donor

A newsletter for those who support the future of America!

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2024

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **A Message from an Eagle Scout**
- **Distinguished Eagle Scouts in Del-Mar-Va Council**
- **Profile—Chris Willis, District Executive for New Units**

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A Message from an Eagle Scout

My name is Tristan Pavese and I earned the rank of Eagle Scout with Troop 817 in Salisbury. I am a Wor-Wic Community College graduate and currently a student at Salisbury University. I'd like to share the incredible impact that Scouting has had on my life.

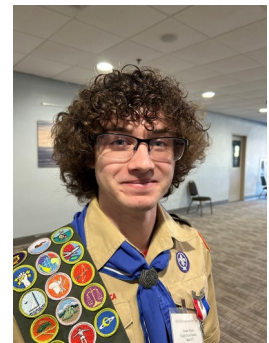
When I was 13, I dropped in on a Troop meeting to help a friend fulfill one of his rank requirements. I didn't really expect to join the Troop, but the tremendous feeling of camaraderie and brotherhood within the Troop quickly convinced me that this was an organization that I knew I had to become a part of. I had only attended a few meetings before our first campout, it was a white-water rafting and biking trip in Western

Pennsylvania. After such an incredible trip, I knew I was hooked and from that weekend forward, Scouting has helped me to learn valuable life lessons I'll use for the rest of my life.

An Eagle Scout is required to earn at least 21 different merit badges covering topics such as civic duty but also many practical badges such as cooking, personal health and fitness. Aside from these practical applications, we also learn the values of duty, honor, discipline and integrity. And at this point, Scouting has been teaching these same values for over a hundred years.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize the idea that the rank of Eagle Scout represents the point by which the Scout has proven that he is not

only a leader, but that he has the particular ambitions and goals that he is willing to pursue with the skills that he has developed after several years of hard work and effort. One could say a Boy Scout's career ends with obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout. But the truth



is the longer we live, the more lessons we learn. Scouting has equipped me with the skills, experiences, and friendships that I look forward to for the many challenges that will allow me to carry forth the ideals of Scouting into my everyday life. Thank you.



Register here for the 2024 Del-Mar-Va Council Recognition Event Including the 2024 Class of Silver Beaver Honorees & A rare Distinguished Eagle Award



*May 8, 2024, 6:00 PM
Cheswold VFD
Banquet Hall*

Distinguished Eagle Scouts

The Distinguished Eagle Scout Award (DESA) is a distinguished service award of the Boy Scouts of America. It is awarded to an Eagle Scout who has achieved extraordinary national-level recognition, fame, or eminence within their profession and/or service to the nation, and has a strong record of voluntary service to their community. Stringent criteria begins with a minimum of 25 years from the official record date the Eagle Scout rank was earned, a nomination process, selection committee review, and approval by the National Eagle Scout Association. It is one of only two BSA awards presented to adults dependent upon the recipient's having been awarded Eagle Scout as a youth; the other is the NESAs Outstanding Eagle Scout Award (NOESA).

The DESA was first introduced in 1969 and is awarded by the National Eagle Scout Association. To date there have been 15 recipients in Del-Mar-Va Council. Those recipients are William Poole, Marvin Smith Sr., Francis Morris, Randall Murrill, William Hershey, H. Gordon Smyth, John Croom III, William Topkis, Thomas Short, Jon Andes, John Akridge III, Ronald Siarnicki, Clifford Berg, Ronald Blanck and Pat Confalone. Thank you all for your service to Scouting.

Council President's Club Expands Again!

The Council President's Club is an annual Giving Circle for members who contribute a minimum of \$2,500 for three-year consecutive years or more. Currently 33 members are enrolled. Thanks to their ever-increasing support, two giving levels have been added to the Club—Platinum and Diamond Memberships!

- Membership has its privileges! 2024 Friends of Scouting Gift set which includes council shoulder patches, zipper pull, and Del-Mar-Va Council travel mug and cooler.

- Invitation to the 2024 Friends of Scouting Victory Celebration
- Invitation to attend the following events in 2024:

-Sporting Clays Reception & Auction, Queenstown, MD (October)
-An exclusive donor appreciation reception with the Council President (May)

- Silver, Gold, Platinum or Diamond Member Lapel Pin

Email development@dmvc.org for more information.

2024 President's Club Members

Diamond Level: Tom & Beth Hershey

Platinum Level: Robert & Becky Nakagawa, Dan & Nora Protokowicz

Gold Level: Cliff & Donna Berg, Ray & Regina Teat, Bob Statkiewicz, Pat & Rosie Press, Bob Kneisley, Andy & Terri Sensing, Brian & Sheila Tome

Silver Level: Glenn Moore, Lynn & Leslie Jones, Jen Chellew, Kevin B. Smith, Jeena Abraham, Doug & Terri Quaintance, Tim & Suzanne Holly, Steve & Colleen Small, Brad Lundberg, Craig & Glynne Richards, Patrick & Catherine Kaser, Bill Whisler, Stuart Johnson, Gen. Ronald Blanck, Bryan Murfree, Bob & Hilanne Myers, Bruce Swayze, Phillip Dedominicis, Sandy & Lori Smyth, José Echeverri, Ted Janusz, Don & Sue Morris, Mary & Mark Lewis



Profile: Chris Willis, District Executive

On December 1st, 2023, Chris Willis joined the Del-Mar-Va Council Staff as a District Executive for New Units. He is currently working in the Iron Hill district to recruit new membership.

Chris was a Cub Scout in Pack 88 for two years as a child and has fond memories of Scouting. He believes Scouting has many positive aspects that help shape children into successful and contributing members of the world.

This attracted him to the prospect of working with Del-Mar-Va Council. He has already had the



opportunity to attend a staff planning conference. Chris enjoyed the conference and getting to know his fellow staff members.

Outside of Scouting, Chris enjoys sports, especially basketball,

football and mini golf. He is fond of movies & tv shows and likes spending time with family and friends.

Chris is looking forward to the opportunity to empower future leaders by providing them with all the support they need. When asked if he had a message to share with volunteers and donors, Chris replied, "Thank you for everything that you give towards the Scouts, their families, and DMVC!"

If your organization is interested in hosting a Scouting unit or you would like to volunteer with a local unit, contact us at info@delmarvacouncil.org.

DMVC Staff Attends Planning Conference

In January, our staff kicked off the year at a multi-council planning conference while our board and volunteer committees round out a 3 year strategic plan. This conference—attended by over 30 BSA Councils in the region—gave DMVC the opportunity to prepare for the upcoming year and the success of its membership growth plan while enjoying fellowship with each other and neighboring Councils. Over four days, each department had time to meet individually and with the entire staff to work on objectives for 2024, including:

- Reviewing opportunities for program improvements and expansion in support of growing our membership. These included expanded weekend activities, more accessible training, and summer camps.
- Looking at creative ways to increase the visibility of Scouting and plans to have a prominent presence at community events throughout the peninsula.
- Drafting a comprehensive case for support as we launch a major fundraising initiative to support our 2024 goals.
- Preparing strategic plans to embark on a bold and ambitious goal to double the number of youth we serve in the next few years.

We have our sights set on serving 10,000 youth in 400 units by the close of 2026. Our time at the planning conference has set Del-Mar-Va Council on a path to achieve that goal. Watch for updates in future issues of the Del-Mar-Va Donor and on social media.



Del-Mar-Va Council, Inc. Boy Scouts of America

1910 Baden Powell Way
Dover, Delaware 19904

Phone: 302-622-3300

Email: development@dmvc.org

Ways to Give

www.delmarvacouncil.org/give

NOW ACCEPTING CRYPTO CONTRIBUTIONS

www.delmarvacouncil.org/crypto

The Boy Scouts of America has been shaping the lives of our youth since 1910. Scouting exists because of the volunteer and financial support provided by the community. The best way to support the Boy Scouts of America financially is by making a contribution directly to the Del-Mar-Va Council.

By giving to your local BSA council, you are directly supporting Scouting programs where you live — programs that clean up your parks, gather food for the area needy, and even help your community prepare for disaster.

The Del-Mar-Va Council is funded by a variety of sources, including: direct contributions, special events, annual popcorn sale, foundation grants, the United Way, and program/activity/camping fees. With your support, the Del-Mar-Va Council can bring the nation's highest quality Scouting programs to many more youth throughout the peninsula.

Why Give to Del-Mar-Va Council Endowment?

Have you ever considered a gift to our endowment? The purpose of our endowment is to financially sustain Scouting into the future. Your gift is held forever, invested, and a percentage of the investment earnings are used to fund current operations and to keep Scouting more affordable for more families in the future. Endowment giving is easier than you might think. We receive all kinds of gifts in honor, and in memory, of friends and loved ones to grow our general endowment, or to create an endowment in honor of a friend or loved one.

All kinds of gifts can fund the endowment. One-time gifts and ongoing gifts. Gifts of cash, appreciated property such as stocks, QCDs from your IRA, real-estate, business assets, and even inventory. Have you considered making a gift from your estate? Perhaps one of the easiest ways to give by naming a percentage of your estate in your estate planning document, a beneficiary designation from an investment account, or a life insurance policy.

Did you know we have a relationship with a national Donor-Advised Fund to assist with Charitable Life Income Plans? You can receive lifetime payments while receiving significant tax benefits such as avoiding capital gains. We have many options available and most can have significant tax benefits for you and more income during your lifetime while supporting the growth of Scouting. For more information contact our team by phone 302-622-3300 or email at development@dmvc.org and discover how you can increase your impact on children in the Delmarva peninsula!



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