

Greetings From the Chief

I'm now in the 35th year of my professional service with the BSA. While the career journey of each individual is unique, we also share a common experience: Every year holds memorable moments. 2019 held quite a few for me. There are two, in particular, I'd like to share with you.

The launch and beginnings of Scouts BSA brought a sense of awe and satisfaction to countless volunteers, staff, and families as dens, packs, and troops serving girls and young women formed and began operations.

Everywhere I traveled this year, parents, leaders, and staff shared stories of delight and gratitude as entire families are now participating in the Cub Scouting and Scouts BSA programs of the BSA. And, this is happening in ways that provide each gender the values, experiences, and leadership development of Scouting within the benefit of single-gender groups. Scouts BSA is off to a great start!

The idea and evolution of Scouts BSA came from families and the field. Especially encouraging to me, this is an example of the BSA responding to parents by providing Scouting in a way that meets the most contemporary needs of families today.

A second special memory of this year for me was the 24th World Scout Jamboree hosted by the BSA, Scouts Canada, and Scouts Mexico at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia.

It was the largest world Scout jamboree ever and the first world jamboree I'd attended. But, even more, it was special because Lisa and I experienced the 12 days of this jamboree together—myself as chief and Lisa as a member of the team hosting special guests. We had a grand time!

While I met and engaged with key volunteer and staff leaders of Scouting associations from around the world, many days I was simply hiking the trails of the Summit, meeting and talking with Scouts and leaders. Most striking to me: When asked to share highlights, Scouts at a BSA national jamboree usually tell me about the activities they participated in. At the



Chief Scout Executive Mike Surbaugh with his wife, Lisa

world Scout jamboree, Scouts from the BSA and all other nations spoke first with excitement of the people and cultures they were experiencing, and then of the activities. Scouting indeed builds bridges of understanding and friendship among young people and across cultures.

Each of our first 109 years of serving young people held challenges and opportunities for the BSA. This year and every year going forward will do the same. With that, I can assure you we are blessed with the finest volunteers and staff addressing our challenges and making the most of our opportunities to reach as many young people and families as possible. Our future is bright.

I hope this year held special memories for you and that the coming year will as well. Lisa joins me in the wish that this holiday season and your new year will be filled with joy and blessings reflecting the meaning of this season. I am grateful to you and for you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael B. Surbaugh".

Michael B. Surbaugh | Chief Scout Executive



Scouting in Action

World Scout Jamboree Unlocks New World International Experience

By Jim Wilson

Some 45,000 Scouts from 152 nations arrived at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia this past July. A week or so earlier, around 9,000 International Service Team members had gathered to put on a spectacular jamboree—an event that will long live in Scout and staff memories!

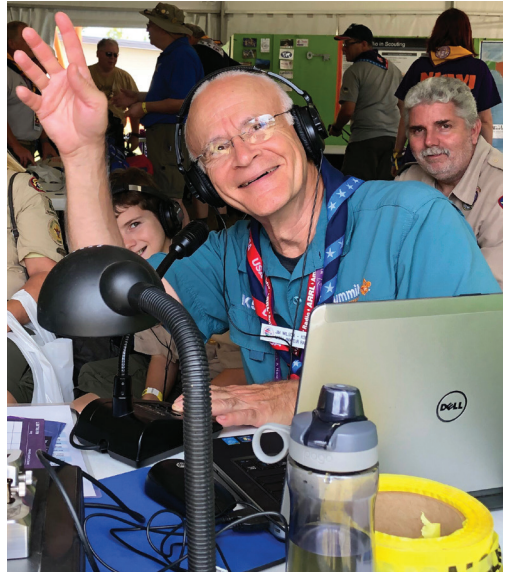
For me, it started about two years ago when I was asked to lead the amateur radio program. Fortunately, I had led a similar operation at the 2013 and 2017 national Scout jamborees, which meant that we knew the location and that gear previously provided by our sponsors was already stored at the Summit.

The big challenge was recruiting staff members from all over the world who held amateur radio licenses in their home countries, in addition to their Scouting experience. We eventually recruited 33 staff members from 15 countries.

It wasn't necessarily easy to mesh cultures and approaches to Scouting and amateur radio. But over the course of the jamboree, we all came together to demonstrate amateur radio to more than 3,000 Scouts from around the world and completed more than 4,000 two-way contacts covering 86 countries.

The big highlight experience for our operation was a two-way live contact with astronaut Drew Morgan on the International Space Station. Drew is an assistant Scoutmaster and really wanted to see this contact happen. We had a fabulous stage and video screen. Ten Scouts from Australia, Bolivia, Iceland, Japan, Pakistan, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States asked questions, and Drew provided insight for the excited Scouts and a wide audience through a Facebook live video.

We also launched four balloons with amateur radio payloads transmitting their location. Essentially, these were Mylar party balloons drifting slowly upward and settling in the jet stream at 28,000 to 32,000 feet. We tracked the balloons day by day with two of them crossing the Atlantic. This was pretty darn interesting, and I hope we've inspired and captured the imaginations of a few Scouts with this adventure.



From July 16 to Aug. 2, I lived in a tent and hiked a hundred yards to the shower house, nearly a half mile to the dining hall, and two miles to our amateur radio station. Fortunately, I was able to catch a bus on most mornings and back in the evenings.

With rain and mud, or heat and dust, it was a grueling experience—but one that was bolstered a great deal by my three tentmates, who always provided great stories and lots of laughs. It was also delightful to make a difference in the lives of Scouts and leaders by introducing them to the science, technology, fun, and magic of amateur radio.

Learn more about our exciting amateur radio operation and see great photos in the NA1WJ 2019 Jamboree Final Report at <https://k2bsa.net/na1wj-2019-final-report/>. See also these videos: <https://k2bsa.net/world-scout-jamboree-ask-an-iss-astronaut-a-question/> and <https://k2bsa.net/world-jamboree-balloon-launch/>.

Jim Wilson retired in 2013 after 21 years working in publishing and communications at the BSA National Service Center. He has served as Jamboree on the Air task force leader and president of the K2BSA Amateur Radio Association, on the World JOTA-JOTI Team, and on staff at the 2010, 2013, and 2017 National Scout Jamborees.

Scouting Update

Professional Basic Training Moves Again!

We all take pride in when and where we received our basic training to become commissioned professionals. Whether it was National Training School at Schiff, National Executive Institute at Schiff or the Flagship Inn, or PD-L1 at the Center for Professional Development, the training prepared us for our career of service to the youth of America through Scouting. It was also great fun and started longtime friendships.

It was 94 years ago that the first National Training School was held from Oct. 24 to Nov. 22 at the Bear Mountain Inn, Palisades Interstate Park in New York State. Forty-three men attended the only NTS course held at this location.

In April 1926, the second National Training School was held at Briarcliff Manor, New York. During the next eight years, 33 sessions were conducted at Briarcliff Manor as well as four other locations from New York to California. From 1933 through 1979, the Mortimer L. Schiff Scout Reservation near Mendham, New Jersey, was a relatively permanent home for basic training.

When the national office relocated to Texas in 1979, the National Executive Institute moved to the Flagship Inn in Arlington, Texas, and Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. In 1989, the training moved to nearby Westlake, Texas, and became known as Professional Development-Level 1 (PD-L1). The number of moves has been rivaled only by the changes in the number of days it takes to complete the course. From the 45 days of National Training School to the six days and many hours of online preparation for the current course entitled Commissioning, there have been many moves and changes.

New facilities at Scouting's Summit Bechtel Reserve will soon be home to Commissioned Professional Basic Training. Beginning in January 2020, Commissioning for new professionals in the BSA will be conducted at the newly constructed J.W. Marriott, Jr. Leadership Center. The introduction to the profession of Scouting will return to an outdoor camping facility similar to the Schiff Scout Reservation, but unlike any other in the history of professional training.

The Marriott Leadership Center and Gene H. Yamagata Hall will include training classrooms, an auditorium for 280 people with full AV capabilities, 40 hotel-style rooms, a full-service kitchen and food service, and an introduction to all the training and high-adventure opportunities of the Summit Bechtel Reserve.

Earlier this year, the Rex W. Tillerson Leadership Center (pictured below) was dedicated during the 24th World Scout Jamboree at the Summit. This state-of-the-art facility will provide additional training opportunities for professionals and volunteers in Scouting and other youth-serving organizations. It contains six large classrooms with full AV capabilities. Each classroom can accommodate up to 40 participants.

These new facilities, in addition to the training opportunities at Philmont and the Sea Base, will provide first-class training as well as outdoor experiences for volunteers and professionals for years to come. Scouting was born on an island campground, and it has grown and thrived outdoors. Professional development will continue to promote the unbeatable combination of lifetime values and the fresh air of God's great creation!



Rex W. Tillerson Leadership Center

Your Questions and Comments

BSA retiree Scout Shop discount

correction: Your emails and comments are very much appreciated. After further checking and calling a number of Scout shops, it was determined that “the discount for registered BSA retirees is 25 percent in Scout shops owned and operated by the Boy Scouts of America Supply Group. Independent Scout shops may determine the amount of discount offered, if any.” Sorry for any inconvenience! And, thanks for reading *Now & Then* to keep me on my toes!

Your “ASK ALLEN” question box didn’t have any questions or comments. So, I’ll take this opportunity to share some things that might be of interest and useful to you:

Retirees from 14 states including Alaska gathered in Dallas in August for a Reunion Rendezvous as part of the national Top Hands meeting. Everyone had a great time, and they’re ready to do it again. A comment received from one attending retiree sums it all up: *“It was my first time and definitely not my last if we continue to be invited. I liked the planned meetings but also the flexibility of ‘hallway time’ with current Top Hands members. Especially enjoyed the Chief’s remarks and access to exhibit hall as it was a great chance to catch up with old friends.”*

2020 Region Retiree Reunions Announced

Northeast—Sept. 13–16, 2020

Millennium Hotel; Buffalo, New York;
Chair: Dave Borchard, 716-688-0608, Email: dave.borchard316@gmail.com

Southern SE—April 14–17, 2020

Country Inn & Suites by Radisson; Savannah Midtown, Georgia; Cochairs: Bruce and Brenda Tuten, 912-656-4115, Email: b.tuten66@comcast.net

Southern SW—May 5–8, 2020

Holiday Inn DFW Airport South; Arlington, Texas; Chair: Ray Morrell, 817-479-7440; Email: morrellray@yahoo.com

Central—Sept. 14–17, 2020

Hilton Garden Inn Downtown; Cleveland, Ohio; Chair: Tim Mohr, 216-941-7319; Email: tseliot2@sbcglobal.net

Western—Sept. 27–30, 2020

Philmont Scout Ranch; Cochairs: Eric and Carrol Murray, 402-990-2017; Email: emurry@sisna.com

BSA Human Resources arranges a hearing aid discount for retirees who are Vision Care benefit members through TruHearing, Inc. For more details, contact TruHearing at 877-396-7194 and mention your vision insurance through VSP.

2019 income tax reminder: Be sure to take your IRA required minimum distribution if you are 70½ or over before Dec. 31 to avoid the 50 percent penalty, provided you have not already taken an RMD in 2019.

The growing cost of delivering the Scouting program requires constant evaluation. A vision team of volunteers and staff from across the country is considering the best way forward, which will likely require a national membership fee increase for youth members and adult leaders effective Jan. 1, 2020. This prospective change is being driven by the significant cost increase of the liability insurance we must carry to cover all official Scouting activities. Rest assured, change is only being considered out of necessity and the BSA remains committed to ensuring that all youth can experience the character-building benefits of Scouting regardless of their financial situation. In anticipation of a likely increase, our leadership is working diligently to establish a donor-funded BSA Registration Assistance Fund to provide financial support to those who need it.

Keeping your membership registration current is a vital retiree expression of personal pride, active support, and commitment to sustain and grow the movement.

Have a question? Have a concern? Want information?
Send your comments to ASK ALLEN

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Irving, Texas 75015-2079
Email: bsanowandthen@gmail.com



Allen Mossman is a retired BSA professional with 80 years of Scouting in his background. He retired with 30 years of active service on the national executive staff and serves as the volunteer editor of *Now & Then*.

Retiree Adventure

The Oath in Action

Ronald Barisano retired in 2011 after 37 years as a commissioned Scout executive.

He learned the importance of service and leadership early in life as a Scout in Troop 176 in Simsbury, Connecticut—participating as a youth in events and service projects, becoming a senior patrol leader, achieving the rank of Eagle, and serving as assistant Scoutmaster. It is no wonder that Ron continued his commitment to service in his adult life every time he had the chance, through leadership on Rotary boards, in community health and human services organizations, chamber of commerce, Habitat for Humanity, and others.

The opportunity to serve his country as a member of the military never materialized, even though he has always taken his oath of duty to God and country seriously. When Ron became aware of the Honorary Commanders program sponsored by the Dover Air Force Base in Dover, Delaware, it triggered an opportunity to serve.

The Honorary Commanders program brings the commanders of Dover AFB together in partnership with some of Delaware's distinguished community and political leaders. This unique program encourages the exchange of ideas, experiences, and friendships between key leaders of the surrounding communities and Dover AFB leadership to build and strengthen interaction that can have a positive impact on all neighboring communities.

After applying for consideration, Ron was selected as a Dover Air Force Base honorary commander for his outstanding record of community leadership and service. During the last two years, he has served his community and the men and women of the U.S. Air Force with distinction and commitment to the mission in a full range of operations.

The well-known Air Force base is also the home of the largest military mortuary in the Department of Defense and has been used for processing military personnel killed in both war and peacetime. The remains of those who die in action overseas are traditionally brought to Dover AFB before being transferred to family.



The Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs at Dover AFB has also been used to identify remains of civilians in certain exceptional circumstances: in 1978 for the victims of the Jonestown mass murder/suicide, in 1986 for identifying the remains of the crew of the Space Shuttle Challenger, and in 2003 for the crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia. It was also a major site for identifying the remains of military personnel killed in the 9/11 attacks.

As an honorary commander, Ron has flown on a C17 operation to McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kansas, and participated in a briefing tour at the Pentagon with a member of the 512 Force Support Squadron staff assigned there.

Ron has been awarded as the Most Participatory honorary commander of the Dover Air Force Base. He says that he considers it a rare, deep privilege and high honor to serve as a volunteer Dover AFB honorary commander beside the men and women who have answered the call to duty as part of their daily lives.

As life moves on, Ron continues to search for new opportunities to “do my duty to God and country and to help other people at all times.”

Health and Well-Being

Vaccines Are Important to Your Health



Photo courtesy Shutterstock.com, @goodluz

Flu and pneumonia are among the top health concerns for seniors, and the difference between life and death could be a simple injection. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, those two illnesses together are the seventh leading cause of death in the over-65 group. Flu season is upon us now, and retirees and their families need to take all the precautions they can to stay healthy.

It is especially important for us to stay current with our vaccinations because some of us may not have been vaccinated earlier in life and any natural immunity has faded, or new vaccines have been developed since the last immunization. Age-related chronic diseases and weakened immune systems also make seniors more susceptible to diseases that can be prevented with vaccines.

When older people come down with the flu, they are more likely to get other infections such as pneumonia. Just being confined to bed for three or four days can cause very frail older persons to lose the ability to talk and do things for themselves. It can also worsen existing disabilities, increasing the chance of a fall or other injurious accident.

These four critical vaccines are recommended for all seniors:

Influenza. What may seem like a harmless virus can quickly become a serious health issue for seniors. Flu is deadliest among the older population. Records show that older

people account for more than 60 percent of seasonal flu hospitalizations and between 80 and 90 percent of seasonal flu-related deaths. Every retiree should get the flu vaccine annually. There is a higher dose vaccine specifically designed for seniors, and unlike nasal-spray vaccine, it won't expose seniors to the live virus.

Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap). A booster shot against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis is recommended every 10 years. These vaccinations are usually given together as one shot regardless of age. If you have become exposed to the tetanus virus, which usually enters your bloodstream through an open wound, seriously consider getting a Tdap shot.

Pneumococcal infection. Pneumonia is responsible for 60,000 deaths in the U.S. every year, and seniors are more likely to contract it. The pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV) is effective against the 23 most common strains of bacteria that cause pneumonia. This is a one-time vaccination, but those over 65 can get a one-time repeat vaccination if five years have elapsed since their original shot (and they were younger than 65 when they received it).

Shingles (zoster). A million people get shingles in the U.S. every year, and about half of them are 60 or older. Two vaccines are licensed in the U.S. and recommended to prevent shingles: zoster vaccine live (in use since 2006) and recombinant zoster vaccine (in use since 2017). These vaccines reduce the risk of an outbreak of this painful, contagious rash by about 50 percent. Even those who have already experienced shingles can and should get vaccinated to help prevent future occurrences. Consult your doctor for other vaccine recommendations if you did not have childhood diseases growing up such as chickenpox or measles, or if you are at risk for certain diseases such as meningitis. Be safe, be vaccinated, and enjoy the holidays!

Financial Well-Being

Tips for Enduring the Next Market Crash



Photo courtesy Shutterstock.com, ©Rawpixel.com

A top priority for every retiree is protecting our retirement savings and other income sources today and into the future.

We have now been in a “bull market” for 10 years, which makes market forecasters wonder what’s around the corner. A number of investors have become more anxious, anticipating a stock market crash. A continuing combination of political unrest and economic issues has increased volatility in the markets and could be setting the stage for a major pullback of the highs experienced in the past.

It’s always smart to prepare during good times for any devastating market changes that could occur. The following tips are worth considering as you plan your risk management strategy.

Be ready for a market adjustment before it happens. Always be alert to a potential crash when putting together an investment strategy. Don’t be unnecessarily conservative with your investments, but choose a well thought-out overall strategy to follow in case of a major downturn.

Take time to look at your asset allocation. Make sure that you’re comfortable with the level of risk in your portfolio. You should never give up on stocks entirely; instead, take a smart approach by reducing allocations of risky stock investments and moving a portion of your

portfolio to safer investments. This will cut down on your overall risk.

Don’t make drastic changes during a market slump. More investing mistakes happen during market crashes than at any other time because panicked investors tend to sell off their holdings right away—a very foolish move, because they will only end up having to buy those stocks back at higher prices when the market improves or miss out on long-term growth. Many investors who sold in the recession a decade ago never got back in and, therefore, missed out on huge gains.

Take advantage of low prices during a crash by continuing to make regular investments. This

can yield many positive benefits. As a general rule, it’s wise to trust your preplanned strategy and make changes only after very careful consideration.

After a crash or adjustment, assess the situation and give yourself time to calm down. Look at how your portfolio performed to see what worked and what didn’t work. Then consider whether you need to replace any investments with better, alternative choices or make gradual changes by keeping your existing assets invested as they are and directing new contributions into different investment options. Don’t rush to make major changes. Working gradually toward a new strategy can allow your old investments time to recover some of their losses and should help you handle any future downturns more comfortably.

Above all, don’t panic. Instead, look upon a market adjustment as an opportunity to invest your savings at much more favorable valuations. You can purchase more shares of stocks or funds with the same dollar amount after a crash, which will increase your future growth potential.

Having a plan in place before a crash is the best way to prevent panic. Then, you’ll know what to do when the time comes and avoid many of the mistakes people fall prey to in a tough market situation.

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National Membership Participation Report September 30, 2019

Lions	48,244
Tigers	118,501
Wolves/Bears	445,318
Webelos Scouts	425,074
Cub Scout—age Youth	1,037,137
Scouts BSA	774,795
Varsity Scouts	25
Scouts BSA—age Youth	774,820
Venturers	33,807
Sea Scouts	2,751
Explorers	69,918
Young Adults	106,476
STEM Scouts	5,059
New Market Youth	5,059
Subtotal	1,923,492
Learning for Life	208,703
Grand Total Youth	2,132,195
Total Adults	741,671
Total Units	78,868

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New Tents for Philmont Training Center



With its new deluxe tents—complete with a queen-size bed and premium linens, electricity and ceiling fan, and covered porch with cozy chairs—

the Philmont Training Center (PTC) is broadening the appeal of its world-class conferences and Family Adventure Camp like never before. The deluxe tents (also known as eco tents), offered for an additional fee on a first-come, first-served basis, take the PTC tents to the next level:

Room for six. Each tent features a queen bed in the main room and two sets of bunk beds in a separate side room.

Covered porch with chairs. This is perfect for watching your kids play, catching up on some reading, or just watching the sunset.

Queen bed with premium linens. Leave your sleeping bag at home.

Dressers. You can unpack and stay a while.

Power. Electricity in each tent keeps your phone charged. A ceiling fan keeps you comfortable day and night.

Huge screened windows. Let in the mountain breeze and get an immersive view of your surroundings. Close the windows at night to relax in privacy and prepare for the next day.

Now & Then is now online!
You can find it at <http://scoutingwire.org/newsletters/now-then/>