



ABS Planning Conference Announced

Pineville, Louisiana's First Baptist Church is the site for the upcoming Association of Baptists for Scouting planning retreat set for February 21-23, 2025. All ABS members are invited to attend and join in the time of fellowship as we plan upcoming activities to encourage and support Duty to God in Scouting.

ABS members remain active at Scouting High Adventure bases, particularly the Philmont Scout Ranch and the 2026 National Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve. Both sites will see tens of thousands of

Scouting youth and adults experiencing the unique opportunities that these sites provide.

ABS not only supplies manpower for the Duty to God program areas at Jambo and chaplaincy support at both high adventure bases, but also works to provide scholarships that allow more Baptist Scouts and Scouters to participate. This is only possible with significant planning and the financial support of many faithful Baptists among us. There is a saying that "we need prayers of intervention and

support, plus money to operate, but your time is perhaps equally valuable and just as necessary."

Matthew 28:18-20 declares a fundamental Christian principal for the early church to go forth and serve. This is known as the Great Commission. Throughout the New Testament we see His disciples actively engaged in meeting folks where they were and sharing the Good News of Christ's sinless birth, life, death and glorious resurrection. A "Ministry of Presence" at Scouting events serves others

continued on page 3

Welcome

Welcome to the Association of Baptists for Scouting (ABS) Newsletter - a communication intended to help you remain current on activities of the ABS. Please share with other Scouters and consider supporting these efforts with your time, talents and treasure. It is only through the dedication of Baptist Scouters like you that ABS can expand efforts throughout this great land. More than ever our world needs the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our young people in Scouting deserve it.



President's Message

By John Lyon

As I write this, tomorrow is Groundhog Day. We all are aware of the legend of the groundhog for February 2. Many of us rely on Punxsutawney Phil in Philadelphia, others of us rely on local groundhogs, such as general Beauregard Lee here in Atlanta. And we believe they will prognosticate more or less winter weather.

It's amusing as we really know weather forecasting is hyper complex, and unimaginable at times. One of our past presidents spoke of his recent 6" of snow in *FLORIDA*, 250 miles south of my home outside of Atlanta where we saw not a flake!

Yet in our changing world we as Christians rely on the never changing Holy Trinity for our guidance through Scripture and Prayer. When attending a wonderful session years ago led by Henry Blackaby, he said "Find where God is working, and go join Him." Amen!

Here's my invitation — come and join ABS in our activities. I am convinced the godly group I am privileged to be part of is focused on His work in Scouting. Your best opportunity is to join us February 21-23 at 1st Baptist Church in Pineville, Louisiana, for planning, fellowship, food and worship! All the details are contained in this issue.

Be ready for other opportunities coming to join our Duty to God in Baptist Scouting, whether that's a National Jamboree, Chaplaincy at your summer camp, or Baptist religious emblems program to recognize deserving folks in your church or district.

One of the great things about gathering together through learning, worshipping and planning is realizing the great potential of ABS members being face to face. For the first time in recent memory we will gather at Pineville First Baptist Church in Pineville, Louisiana on February 21-23, 2025.

Matthew 9: 37 Then He said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few."

Come & join us.

John Lyon

2025 ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS FOR SCOUTING COMMITTEE

President: John Lyon
 Immediate Past President: Donna Copeland
 Exec. Vice President: Thomas Martin
 Treasurer: Tim Baker
 Secretary: Eric Hood
 Vice President, Membership: Elrico Hurley
 Historian: Merri Bolen
 Chaplain: Jeff Thompson
 Newsletter: Dale Copeland
 Member at Large (1): Pam Thompson
 Member at Large (2): Ted Spangenberg
 Member at Large (3): Jerry Wells
 Endowment (1): Verne Wright
 Endowment (2): Patrick Liang
 Endowment (3): R. Chip Turner

ABS Planning (from page 1)

and puts feet under our prayers.

We are to be the hands and feet spreading the Good News as we minister to a lost and dying world. Scouting's Duty to God program is a wonderful way to do that. We encourage you to join us in Pineville February 21-23 to learn more, do more, and reach more with this terrific vehicle for service to others. It has been said,

If not us, then who?
If not now, then when?
- John Lewis

Baptists must be devoted to training and equipping the next generation of leaders.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
February 4, 1977

As a former volunteer Scout leader, I am deeply honored to follow in the footsteps of those who have served as Honorary Presidents of the Boy Scouts of America.

Keenly aware of Scouting's high ideals and outstanding educational methods, I welcome the opportunity of the movement's sixty-seventh anniversary to applaud all those who have ensured its success. The achievements of the Boy Scouts continue to benefit communities across America. And the thousands of volunteer organizations which make Scouting available to our young people perform a most valuable public service. They pass on to thousands of young citizens the importance of honesty, self-reliance, and respect. They are leaders in the conservation of energy and other natural resources. And they encourage character development, citizenship training and physical and mental fitness.

For all these reasons I am proud to continue my lifelong association with Scouting. I ask that all of our citizens support its vital role in our national life.

Jimmy Carter

In Memoriam of President James Earl (Jimmy) Carter, Jr.

On December 29, 2024, the American people lost a great Humanitarian and Southern Gentleman, James Earl (Jimmy) Carter, Jr., 39th President of the United States. What might not be known is that Jimmy Carter was very much involved in the Boy Scout of American.

Mr. Carter served variously as a Troop Committee Member, Committee Chair, Scoutmaster and Explorer Advisor. He joined Scouting in 1951 in The Chehaw Council, and was involved all during the years each of his three sons were involved in Scouting. In his youth he was a Scout achieving the rank of Star Scout.

During his years as Scoutmaster, the troop was very active with hikes and camping and particularly enjoyed camping at Providence Canyon. On one camping trip the troop created a horse or mule (much discussion on what it was) out of PVC pipes with the assistance of a plumber. His real claim to fame during his years as a Scoutmaster, according to son Chip, was storytelling around the campfire and his ghost stories were the BEST.

Mr. Carter was recognized for his Scouting service with the Silver Buffalo in 1975, and the Alumnus Award during the 100th Anniversary of Scouting. During his Presidency, he was the Honorary President of Boy Scout of American and in 1977 he wrote the attached letter (below).



Winter Retreat Agenda (preliminary)

Friday, February 21

Arrival

2:00 Fellowship Time

3:00 Finishing What We Have Started

Worship/Devotional

Follow Up to Previous Topics

- Bylaws

- Good Shepherd/Silver Good Shepherd

- Baptist Unit Award of Excellence

5:00 Supper on Your Own or as a Group

7:00 Free Evening or Enjoy a Nighttime Mardi Gras Parade on Main Street

Saturday, February 22

9:00 Planning for the Near Future

Worship/Devotional

Review Five Year Plan

- Additions / Deletions

- Set order of importance for goals

- Set priority goals for 6 months and 1 year

Begin Work on 6 Months Plans

12:00 Lunch (We will have something brought in)

1:00 Planning for the Future

Worship/Devotional

Continue Work on 6 Month Plans

Begin Work on 1 Year Plans

4:00 What We Missed

5:00 Supper (We will have something brought in)

6:30 Tour Chip's Ouxouiga House for a tour down a memory lane of Scouting

Sunday, February 23

10:30 Worship with First Baptist Church

11:30 Dismissal / Lunch on Your Own or with Friends

Area Lodging

Several hotel/motel options are possible in the Pineville/Alexandria area.

Everyone is responsible for their own lodging choice.

These are a few located nearby.

We make no recommendation.

Holiday Inn Express
2820 Monroe Highway
Pineville, LA 71360

Country Inn & Suites
2727 Monroe Hwy
Pineville, LA 71360

Holiday Inn
701 4th Street
Alexandria, LA 71301



ABS Eagle Scout Corner

Eagle Scout 2024 Honor Roll

The just concluded 2024 class of new Baptist Eagle Scouts was impressive. The story of each Scout's trail to Eagle can be found in the Eagle Scout Corner newsletters posted on the BaptistScoute.org website. You should check these out plus all the past issues of ABS newsletters. For the record we wanted to list them one more time:



Caleb Brian Beeson, Troop 459
Micah Joseph Beeson, Troop 459
Nicholas Edward Clohessy, Troop 77
William Cox, Troop 35
Nathan Letnaunchyn, Troop 665
Shawn Hampton Lee Richardson, Troop 144
Alexander Thrasher, Troop 307
Liam Dewanz, Troop 39
Tyler Joseph Grosjean, Troop 8
Aidan Luke Kuczka, Troop 2220
Alexander Lindsey, Troop 3
Ben McKenzie, Troop 125

Corbin Padgett, Troop 153
Gavin Walker, Troop 8
Jon Burton, Jr., Troop 143
Blake Caulkins, Troop 4316
Coleman Glasscock, Troop 223
Matthew Grogan, Troop 201
Oluwatobi David Ibironke, Troop 450
Ryan Jacob Porter, Troop 89
Paul Lawrence GilScott Robinson, Troop 450
Cole Jeffery Tanner, Troop 43
Jason James Walker, Troop 520
Sara Wong, Troop 33
Sean Wong, Troop 33

Chapel Refurbishment Projects Now Part of the Philmont Annual Calendar

Thanks to the hard work of a number of volunteers over the past few years, the Chapel Refurbishment Week has become part of the annual calendar at Philmont Scout Ranch. The largest representation each year has come from the Association of Baptists for Scouting team led by Donna Copeland. In 2024, work was done at every backcountry and headquarters chapel with the exception of Black Mountain and Sawmill which were unreachable because of accumulated snow from the winter. In addition, a new chapel site was established adjacent to the Baldy Town Cemetery.

May 7-11 are the dates for the 2025 event and the assignment is even more aggressive than last year. Work is scheduled for every current chapel with two additional locations in the planning. Those interested in knowing more or ready to volunteer for 2025 are encouraged to contact Donna Copeland DonnaJCopeland@protonmail.com who will again coordinate the ABS team. The size of the entire group is limited by accommodation and logistical considerations, so act now if you are interested.

Philmont Chaplaincy Plans Announced for 2025

The chaplaincy team for the 2024 summer camping season at Philmont Scout Ranch was one of the best in recent memory, according to R. Chip Turner, the Chaplain Coordinator. In addition to conducting daily worship services in the various chapels located in camping headquarters, the chaplains rotated responsibility for the eight ongoing assignments throughout the ranch. Final selection of the 2025 team is expected soon.

Two exciting new developments will be included in the 2025 season for chaplains:

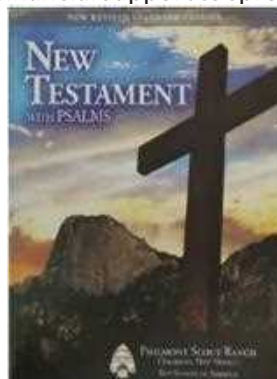
- Dale Copeland will serve as Associate Chaplain Coordinator. Dale has held several Philmont staff positions in past years, including being a chaplain on the 2023 team. At the conclusion of the 2025 season, Dale will become the new Philmont Chaplain Coordinator. Chip Turner said of Dale: "I am so pleased that Dale is willing to accept this role for upcoming seasons. A prime concern of mine in choosing to "retire" as coordinator in August, 2025, was finding the right person to take Philmont chaplaincy to a new level. Dale's vast experience in Scouting at every level from local unit to national, linked with a vision for Philmont chaplaincy ideally qualifies him for this role. He will have no greater supporter than I."

- Thanks to the visionary leadership of the ABS board, the organization will fund a Baptist Chaplain Intern for the 2025 season. This will not only give a seminary student extremely valuable experience in further preparation for vocational ministry but will also help expand the possibilities for additional ministries during the summer camping season. More details on the role and the person to be selected will be available in coming weeks.



New Testaments

All High Adventure bases (Philmont, Summit, Sea Base and Northern Tier) are supplied New Testaments w/Psalms for all their program participants attending chapel services. These are made possible by generous donations from religious groups, local churches and individuals who desire that each Scout and Scouter have their own copy of a New Testament. This project continued in 2024 with several Baptists groups and churches participating through funding gifts. Thousands of these backpack sized books are handed out during chapel services each summer. We encourage more church's participation and financial support to spread the Gospel.



Important Dates

February 21-23, 2025
ABS Conference @
Pineville First Baptist Church

May 7-11, 2025
Refurb Chapels @ Philmont

May 12-16, 2025
National Annual Meeting
Orlando, Florida

Contact Us:

Contact@BaptistScouters.org

Website: www.BaptistScouters.org

