

May 2024 Edition



ABS Today

A Publication of the Association of Baptists for Scouting



PHILMONT TRAINING CENTER

ABS Offers National Training

If you've never been able to visit Philmont, but always wanted to go. Or if you need to return HOME and get recharged - This is the answer! Here are the details:

What Is Being Offered?

July 7-13, 2024 ABS is excited to offer a national training event entitled Baptists in Scouting – Reaching, Teaching, and Ministering to Families

Who Should Attend?

This course is designed for anyone who serves in or works with a unit related to a Baptist church. Ideal participants

include church leaders (Pastors, Ministers of Education, Youth Ministers, Children's Ministers, Family Pastors, etc.), unit leadership (Chartered Organization Representatives, Unit Leaders, Committee Chairman, Committee Members, etc.) and council leadership (Scout Executives, District Executives, Commissioners).

What Will Happen During the Course?

We will share ideas and discuss best practices for reaching, teaching, and ministering to youth and their families. During

the week we will explore:

Reaching

- How do I find youth for my Scouting ministry?
- How do I keep youth active in my Scouting ministry?
- How do I start a Baptist Scouting ministry?
- How does Scouting relate to church growth?
- How can my Scouting ministry reach the entire family?

Teaching

- How do we balance teaching life skills, citizenship, leadership, etc. and our faith?

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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

There is a relatively new Scouting group – The Association of Top Achiever Scouts (ATAS) – that you might not be aware of and how it could help impact your Scouting efforts.

The Association of Top Achiever Scouts (ATAS) was formed in 2004 in the Asia Pacific Scouting Region to unite those who have earned the top Scouting award in their particular National Scout Organizations (NSO). ATAS is recognized by the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) as an international fellowship of Scouting. The Mission of ATAS is to promote and assist Scouts in their respective NSO's to achieve the same level of success and provide a network of top achievers for fraternity and Scouting fellowship.

BSA's top achievers include recipients of the Eagle Scout Award, Sea Scouting's Quartermaster's Award, and Venturing's Silver and Summit Awards. We will be reaching out specifically to all of those Scouts who appear in the Eagle's Corner and others who ABS has sent commendation letters to celebrate their achievement of Scouting's highest honor. ATAS-BSA will become part of the BSA Alumni Association as an affiliate to assure all BSA Top Achievers (Eagle, Quartermaster, Silver and Summit Awardees) a valued membership in ATAS. For more information visit their website: <https://atas-usa.org/>

As we begin to look toward the summer, please plan now to join us at the Philmont Training Center for our Baptist Conference! I am so excited to see what Course Directors Thomas Martin and Tim Baker have planned. This will be my 6th trip over the years to PTC, and I want YOU to come share the most amazing location of Scouting I know. Once you come, you will know exactly see what HOmE means (Heaven On Earth) and you too will use IWTGBTP. See you there!

2024

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 Henry
 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 National Training (from page 1)

- How can I use my Scouting ministry to fulfill the Great Commission?
- How Baptist can I make my Scouting ministry?
- How do I recruit and train great leaders?

Ministering

- How does Scouting fit into my church's ministry?
- How can we use Scouting to minister to youth and families?

And More, Like:

- How do we effectively integrate the religious emblem program in our Scouting ministry?
- How many other Baptists are involved in Scouting and what do they do?
- How do we qualify for the Baptist Unit Award of Excellence?

Where Does the Training Take Place?

The course is offered at the Philmont Training Center (PTC). The PTC is a fantastic training facility nestled in the Sangra De Cristo Mountains of North-East New Mexico. Not only is the PTC a great training facility it is also an excellent family vacation spot. The PTC offers a full array of organized programming for every member of the family from infants to spouses. Family members are joined by others in their age group to participate in carefully designed, age-appropriate programs under the leadership of trained and experienced Philmont staff.

More info and register now at:

www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc



Experience the magic of Philmont - So much to learn, do and see.



You can bring the entire family because there is a program for everyone, from youth up to the mom or dad just wanting to hang out, read a book or see the sites.

The Philmont Training Center has got it all.

It's been said that every youth and every unit deserves a trained Scouter to guide, mentor and oversee a safe, fun filled and productive program. Scouting emphasizes Duty to God. This conference will provide ideas and tools to support these lofty goals for Baptist sponsored units.



Philmont Chapel Report

by R. Chip Turner, Chaplain Coordinator



▲ Base Camp Protestant Chapel, nighttime

One of my favorite spots in Camping Headquarters at Philmont Scout Ranch is the Protestant Chapel. Each summer, several thousand crew members, advisors, and Philmont staff participate in the nightly worship services, Sunday morning services, and special occasions held there. The importance of “duty to God in Scouting” is demonstrated daily in this special place. Only eternity will tell the total impact which has been made in the lives of those who worship there.

Thanks to the volunteers who participate in the annual spring chapel refurbishment projects, this chapel gets some well-needed attention. (Baptists are typically pacesetters, both in the number of participants and the quantity of

Chapel Evening Service ►



A Scout is Reverent ▲



projects completed, both in this chapel and around the ranch.) In addition, it is anticipated that some long-awaited stucco work on the deteriorating outer walls will be done prior to the summer season.

An annual maintenance need at the Protestant Chapel is painting and sealing the wooden benches. This seating does not fare well in the harsh winter weather. Therefore, it is hoped that aluminum benches can be purchased and installed prior to the 2025 season. In order to reach this goal of new seating for over 300 persons, individuals and faith groups are being challenged to help underwrite the cost. Such gifts may be sent to Philmont Scout Ranch, 17 Deer Run Road, Cimarron, NM 87714 with the designation of “Protestant Chapel Seating.”

Weathered Benches ►





ABS Eagle Scout Corner

Association of Baptists for Scouting would like to recognize the following Scouts for reaching the highest rank in Scouting. Congratulations for a job well done.



Eagle Scouts (sister & brother) Sara & Sean



Sara (left photo) and Sean (right photo) are the children of Steve and Kristen. They are members of Troop 33 (G & B) in the Greater Los Angeles Area Council in Montebello, California. CONGRATULATIONS Sara and Sean!

Sara's Eagle project involved making 16 dog beds, 40 cat beds, 40 dog toys and 132 cat toys for the Emergency Pet Clinic of San Gabriel Valley. This clinic treats pets and surrendered animals. Sara's project was very much appreciated by the clinic staff, and pets.

She was chosen as one of the Eagle Scout Banner Bearers for the 2024 Rose Bowl Parade.



Sara has earned 52 merit badges, the BSA Mile Swim Award, and the God and Life Religious Emblem. She has been honored to serve as Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Quartermaster, Den Chief, Chaplain's Aide, and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster.

Sean's Eagle project consisted of restoring an existing weathered bench and building two additional benches. This provided a much-needed place to sit at the basketball court area for The Hills Church in Arcadia, California.

He began Scouting with Cub Scouts and earned his Arrow of Light.



Sean has earned 52 merit badges and the God and Life Religious Emblem. He also completed the BSA Mile Swim Award at summer camp, which he feels has been one of his greatest accomplishments. Sean has held the positions of Senior Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Quartermaster, Troop Guide, and Den Chief.

A Lesson for Scout Leaders

- suitable for sharing -

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered.

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies.

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you.

Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight.

Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous.

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today will often be forgotten.

Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough.

Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God.

It was never between you and them anyway.

--Mother Teresa

Try to leave this world a little better than you found it and, when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time, but have done your best.

--Robert Baden-Powell

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 church and individuals who desire that each Scout and Scouter have their own copy of a New Testament. This project continued in 2023 with several Baptists groups and churches participating through funding gifts. Thousands of these backpack sized books are handed out during chapel services each summer.



Important Dates

May 1-5, 2024
Refurb Chapels @ Philmont

May 5-9, 2024
National Annual Meeting
Orlando, Florida

July 7-13, 2024
ABS Conference @
Philmont Training Center

Contact Us:

Contact@BaptistScouters.org



Website:

<https://BaptistScouters.org/>

