



ABS Today

A Publication of the Association of Baptists for Scouting

A Momentous Spring and Summer for ABS



The faculty and attendees of *Baptists in Scouting*, Philmont Training Center, during the week of July 11, 2021.

Following the COVID-19 restrictions of 2020, Baptist Scouters were more than ready to get back into more traditional forms of action. Four highlights from early 2021 include the Cimarroncito Protestant Chapel refurbishment in May, the *Baptists in Scouting* course at Philmont Training Center in July, the election of a new slate of ABS officers in July, and the relaunch

of the ABS website in September (www.BaptistScouters.org).

In this issue of *ABS Today*, you will be introduced to the new officers and to some of the new developments for Baptists in Scouting.

The Cimarroncito Protestant Chapel had been threatened by the Ute Park Fire in 2018. The fire damaged thousands of acres and destroyed many buildings

when it swept down into Philmont. The fire came right to the edge of the Cimarroncito Protestant Chapel, blistering the paint on the building and damaging two of the benches. But the chapel itself remained intact. Chip Turner, who led the Chaplaincy Team at Philmont in 2021, arranged for a team of volunteers to scrape, paint, repair,

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Momentous Spring and Summer

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and replace the damage caused both by the fire and by the ravages of time and weather. The team worked so efficiently that they were also able to refurbish the chapel at Ponil, truly making the most of their time in the Philmont backcountry as good stewards.

The photographs on this page show the condition of the Cimarroncito chapel at the beginning of the restoration. For additional photo's,



visit the ABS Facebook post

<https://www.facebook.com/baptistscouters/posts/10159824524497174>

During the final day of the 2021 *Baptists in Scouting* conference, the faculty and attendees were treated to a rare field trip into the Philmont backcountry where their final session was conducted at the Cimarroncito Protestant Chapel (see picture on page 4 and Facebook post <https://www.facebook.com/baptistscouters/posts/1016000577112174>).



Donna Copeland applies elbow grease (above); the team (below)



Charred bench from the Ute Park Fire (left) was replaced (below)



President's Message

By Donna Copeland

To say that I am encouraged and excited about our new board for ABS is an understatement. Thank you for the honor of my new position and even more for the visionary board. I humbly ask for your prayers for me and for the entire board as we navigate these troubled times. The Philmont Training Center conference this past July was just what we all needed to re-invigorate our love of service for our Savior and the potential to reach Scouts and Scouters for Him.

We have several new active ABS members who have graciously agreed to bring our communication skills forward. Elrico Hurley, Michigan Crossroads Council, is our new vice president of membership/member communications. Alan Ashley, National Capital Area Council, will lead the charge as the chairman for a much needed e-newsletter.

Ted Spangenburg, North Florida Council, moves to immediate past-president, but he will likely hear from all of us often!!! Many thanks for his service to ABS.

Merri Bolen, Chattahoochee Council, remains our recording secretary with the archives of the great history of ABS in her head!! Jerry Wells, Cherokee Area Council, remains the web master who is more than pleased to add Elrico and Alan to his web world.

John Lyon, Atlanta Area Council,

moves to executive vice-president/field service. He will also graciously come my rescue as my wingman!!

Thomas Martin, Louisiana Purchase Council, remains the treasurer and the most excellent keeper of our financial records. He will work closely with Elrico and Merri as we endeavor to know who are our members, where are our members, and how can we help our members.

Jeff Thompson, North East Georgia Council, remains our chaplain with the sure and steady Spirit-led voice to bring us through the fog.

Members at large are Chaplain Kerry Cheesman, Simon Kenton Council, Pam Thompson, North East Georgia Council, Pastor Tim Baker, Cascade Pacific Council, and Kent Brittain, Alamo Council.



Donna Copeland presenting a gift to outgoing ABS President, Ted Spangenburg



ABS and the new National Service Territories

By John Lyon

By now we are all aware of the innovative National Service Territories (NST), implemented June 1 2021 to streamline the National to local council structure. Most notably is the dissolution of the previous regions and areas. You probably ask – Where are these territories, where am I and what are they doing to help councils?

Glad you asked – first please refer to the National Service Territory map (here's a link <https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/properties/territory-maps/>). As Scouters we're trained to read maps, so find your town and locate your new National Service Territory. BTW you can go from the US National Service Territory map to individual ones on the same webpage.

Nice to know where you are, right? Next question, just exactly what does this mean to me, and perhaps ABS? Again, glad you asked. At our recent Executive Board meeting, we discussed how to approach this new NST model. Given that many of us are active in our local councils, what opportunities are here? Following chats with the ABS officers, the final day of the Baptist Philmont Training course unveiled the position of ABS NST Ambassador. In the roll out we are in search of folks who are willing to expand their sphere of influence and be a resource for other Scouters and professional staff in working with Baptist units and youth. Perhaps a general list of characteristics will help.

ABS National Service Territory Ambassador:

- Willing heart to serve.
- Vigorous promoter of Baptist Religious Emblems. This position allows greater influence to other council Baptist churches, reaching youth for Christ.
- Knowledgeable in Baptist core beliefs, also how the local church interfaces with BSA.
- Be available to NST committees as a resource, promoter, and above all be able to speak "Baptist" in the group of faith based organizations supporting Scouting.
- Have the Can Do approach, as well as the old commissioner answer, "I don't know the answer [to your question] yet I will find out and get back to you."

Most already have several of these attributes as part of what you do in your church, units, districts, etc. We have an amazing opportunity to reach out to Baptist churches, connecting Scouts and Baptist Religious Emblems. You can be an amazing resource for those who are starting potential new units or potentially finding a unit a new home at Baptist churches.

As you read this, I would ask that you prayerfully consider joining this initiative, and recruit other Baptist Scouters to join with ABS as we move forward in the new Scouting landscape. For more information, discussion, and resources please contact me at jlyon@baptistscouters.org.

Blessings,
John Lyon – Atlanta, GA



John Lyon, far left, with the rest of the 2021 PTC conference participants in front of the refurbished Cimarroncito Protestant Chapel

Eagle Scouts who received
congratulatory letters from ABS
during January – June, 2021

Isabelle Rose Walker	Dallas, TX
Tasha Brawner	LaGrange, GA
Julie Seppanen	Huntsville, TX
Cohen Woodlief	Midlothian, VA
Christopher Westling	Chesapeake, VA
Jaxon Dorek	Coupland, TX
Logan Tompkins	Suffolk, VA
Robert Shelton Carpenter, Jr.	Raeford, NC
Justin Alexander Fox	Raeford, NC
Jordan Grey Croake	Weston, FL
Samuel G. Dexter	Acme, PA
Austin Reece Glass	Griffin, GA
Bridget Brady	Newton, NJ
Emily Brothman	Newton, NJ
Jasmine Lutz	Newton, NJ
Lindsay Pugliese	Newton, NJ
Zoe Rizzo	Newton, NJ
Katelin Hanifan	Newton, NJ
Brianna Conlon	Newton, NJ
Logan Trefethen	Kingsland, GA
Lukas Isaiah Wilkerson	Morristown, TN
Joseph Webster	New Bern, NC
Kyle Harrison Moore	Apex, NC
Ryan Young	Lawrenceville, GA
Sean P. Gadbois	Tomah, WI
Bradley McCoy	French Camp, MS
Nathan Lewis Baxley	Birmingham, AL
Cameron Ahmad Gee	Fortson, GA
Hunter Edwin Thornton	Twin Falls, ID
Philip Albert G. Francia	Chula Vista, CA
Isaiah Matthew Clark	Katy, TX
Stone Lewis Jessel	Houston, TX
Brayden Nardi	Eastman, GA
Jackie Edwards, Jr.	Lockhart, TX
Antonio Hodges Johnson	St. Petersburg, FL
Rachel Webster	New Bern, NC
Anthony Quintero	Salem, OR
David Huggins	Salem, OR
David Anderson	Salem, OR
Aiden West	New Hartford, NY
Dennis "Tripp" Phelps III	Chesapeake, VA
Jack Thomas Richards	Venice, CA
Jacob C. Thomas	Cleveland, GA
Steven Michael Yestranski	Chesapeake Beach, MD
William Blake Welch	Cleveland, GA
Seth Stubblefield	Drummonds, TN
Nicholas A. Tabor	Lawton, OK
Jackson Garner	Petal, MS

Board Member Highlights: Donna Copeland

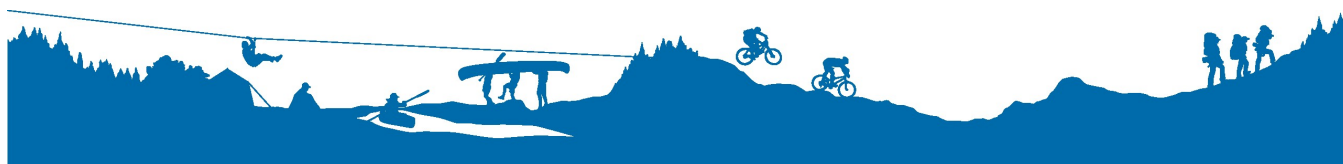
I was born in Montana, lived all around the west, then moved to Oklahoma at age 12. That makes me an Okie!! I married my high school sweetheart and God gave us boys. So Scouting has been a part of our lives for more than 40 years. We owned and operated two businesses for a bit more than 50 years and just recently closed both, sold our building, and are officially retired. We hope to continue to walk through the doors God opens for us in Scouting and other community-serving work. We are committed to Trinity Baptist Church where my husband serves as a deacon and I play the piano.

We have two Eagle sons and two Eagle grandsons. Both my husband and I serve on our local council executive board, have been Wood Badge Course Directors, NAYLE Course Directors, National and World Jamboree Staff, and a variety of positions along the way. We believe Scouting mirrors our faith walk closer than any other youth program and has the ability to reach youth with no faith, wavering faith, and growing faith.

One of the most exciting projects that I have had a part in as a member of the National Religious Relationships Training sub-committee was the development of unit chaplain and unit chaplain aide training. The course is titled

Chaplain Training and is housed on-line in the BSA Learn Center, which you can access at by logging into your account at <https://my.scouting.org>. You can take the training one module at a time and return later to complete it, or you can finish it all in one sitting, which takes about 62 minutes. If you are registered as a chaplain for your unit, this course qualifies you as position-specific trained which is important for your unit.

I came to Christ as a young adult after having been raised in a moral home but not a Christ-following one. I was raised by loving and caring parents, but walking with the Lord was not a part of their world view. Ethics and morals were important, but all done on one's own. God graciously sent a young man, my husband of now 50 years, to invite me to attend church with him, hear the Word taught, learn the source of guilt, and accept my inability to save myself. I agreed (and still agree!!) that the Lord is Who He says He is, accepted His gift of His Son, and confessed Him as my Lord and King. My life was forever changed. I know that I belong to Him, not because I am worthy, but because He is Worthy. II Timothy 1:12 "...nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."



Chaplain's Corner

By Jeff Thompson

This is one of my favorite stories:

Once upon a time, an egg fell out of an eagle's nest. Miraculously, the egg did not break. A farmer found the eagle's egg and placed it under one of his brooding hens. The eaglet hatched with the chickens and grew to be like them. He clucked and cackled, scratched the earth for worms, flapped his wings, and managed to a fly few feet in the air.

Years passed. One day, the eagle, now grown old, saw a magnificent bird above him in the sky. It glided in graceful majesty against the powerful wind, with scarcely a movement of its golden wings.

Spellbound, the eagle asked, "Who's that?"

"That's the king of the birds, the eagle," said a chicken. "He belongs to the sky. We belong to earth – we're chickens."

The eagle who thought he was a chicken gazed at the eagle for a long time. He finally said, "Oh, how I wish I could have been a bird like that."

So, the eagle lived as a chicken for that's what he thought he was.

We have such a great opportunity to impact the growth of young people. Through Scouting we can help youth learn who they are as children of God and explore their potential. For we as leaders should help all our Scouts see that they are eagles. The Association of Baptists for Scouting offers resources and training to help leaders guide Scouts to embrace who God wants them to be. We can help them see that they belong to the sky and not the earth. Perhaps the sixth verse in Proverbs 22 says it best, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Board Member Highlights: John C. Lyon, Jr.

Roots run deep in the Atlanta Area Council where John spent seven years as a boy in Scouting, earning his Arrow of Light and his Eagle Awards. With 34 years as an adult leader he has served as a den leader, Cubmaster, assistant Scoutmaster – including 1st Assistant Scoutmaster to the Atlanta Area Council's 1993 Jamboree Troop 1842 – Explorer Post Advisor, District Commissioner, Assistant Council Commissioner, and District and Council Trainer. Presently he serves as the Chartered Organization Representative for Pack, Troop and Crew 353, the Council Religious Relationships Chair, the Council's Religious Emblems Coordinator, Council Venturing Associate Advisor, Council Sea Badge Committee, former SR Area 9 Venturing Associate Advisor, National Service Territory 14 Venturing Committee Member, also member of the National Religious Relationships Committee and Executive Vice President of the Association of Baptists for Scouting. A recipient of the Silver Beaver, District Award of Merit, Council and Area Venturing Leadership Awards, John has also received the Baptist Good Shepherd in recognition of his passion for helping Scouts grow in their faith through the Religious Emblem program emphasis. He served as Chaplain for the 2013 & 2017 National Jamborees, 24th World Jamboree, and coordinated the Duty to God exhibit at the World Jamboree, Faith & Beliefs Area. As a result of his support for religious emblems and Duty to God in Scouting, he is the recipient of the Catholic Bronze Pelican, UMC Cross & Flame, and Islamic Council of North America's Service to Humanity for Global Peace awards. A retired professional Civil Engineer, John is a Deacon in a large Southern Baptist Church, Burnt Hickory Baptist in Powder Springs, Georgia. His Eagle Scout son and daughter-in-law are serving in ministry in south metro Atlanta.





ABS Today

c/o Alan Ashley
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Visit ABS Online

For additional pictures, content, and resources,
please visit our recently updated website

www.BaptistScouters.org

and our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/baptistscouters/>

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Guess the Scouter

Below are four fun facts about one of our ABS Officers. Can you guess who it is? Look for the answer in the next edition of *ABS Today*.

I lived in 23 places the first 3 three years of my life.

I met my future spouse when I was in the 8th grade.

I spent my 35th wedding anniversary horse packing in the Wind River Range, WY.

I never met an onion I didn't like.

Guess the Location

Can you guess where the photo to the right was taken? Look for the answer in the next edition of *ABS Today*.



2021 ABS Officers

- ◆ **President:** Donna Copeland
- ◆ **Executive VP:** John Lyon
- ◆ **VP Membership/Communication:** Elrico Hurley
- ◆ **Secretary:** Merri Bolen
- ◆ **Treasurer:** Thomas Martin
- ◆ **Chaplain:** Jeff Thompson
- ◆ **Webmaster:** Jerry Wells
- ◆ **Immediate Past President:** Ted Spangenburg
- ◆ **Members at Large:**
 - ◆ Tim Baker
 - ◆ Kent Brittain
 - ◆ Kerry Cheesman
 - ◆ Pam Thompson