



ABS Today



A Publication of the Association of Baptists for Scouting

National Jamboree Opportunities for ABS



Four National Duty to God honorees (see page 3) at the worship service of the 2019 World Jamboree. Left to right are Thomas Martin, Ted Spangenberg, Chip Turner, and Donna Copeland.

Baptist Scouters have been active in recent National and World Jamborees by serving as Chaplains. Included in this edition of *ABS Today* is information about the selection of Chaplains for the 2023 National Jamboree, and information about a timely

resource for those considering chaplaincy service.

And Baptist service is not limited to chaplaincy. Staffing the ABS midway booth is a wonderful opportunity to interact with Scouts and Scouters, and to share, in a very natural way, what it means to be

a Baptist. For information about the ABS booth, please contact ABS President Donna Copeland.

Finally, we rejoice over the notable Scouting achievements and recognitions of our Baptist brothers and sisters. May we each be encouraged to serve gladly, gracefully, and with excellence.

2023 National Jamboree Chaplains

We are beginning to accept applications from those who want to serve as a Baptist Chaplain at the 2023 National Scout Jamboree. Duties of a Jamboree Chaplain include:

- Get to know Jamboree participants and leaders by showing your interest in them and their activities.
- Provide a spiritual presence for the Jamboree area which you serve.
- Provide spiritual counseling when needed or requested.
- Provide opportunities for all young people in your service area to grow in their relationship with God by offering religious opportunities in such areas as prayer, devotions, and promoting the Religious Emblem program.
- Be familiar with the job description and responsibilities of the "Chaplain Aide."
- Be willing to work in an interfaith setting with other chaplains as you promote duty to God among the Jamboree participants.

If you have an interest in serving as a chaplain at the 2023 National Jamboree, please email me, Jeff Thompson, at Yonahmt@charter.net



2022 Chaplain Training at Philmont

This summer during the week of July 10 through 16, there will be a chaplain training course at Philmont. This conference is designed to equip chaplains to serve at events such as Jamborees, High Adventure Bases, at local council summer camps, and in other capacities in Scouting. Participants will learn to minister to the needs of all youth and leaders and be better prepared to understand and be sensitive to serving a broad spectrum of faith groups. The course will incorporate a wide variety of elements, including counseling, conflict resolution and crisis management in a Scouting context. Most sessions will take

place at the Philmont Training Center, but we will explore the possibility of having some sessions take place at backcountry chapels.

We would like to have many Baptists Scout leaders at this course. If you want more information or you would like to register for this course, please go to [Philmont Training Center Conferences - Philmont Scout Ranch](#) to get more information.



A Philmont Training Center conference offers iconic activities for all family members

Ted Spangenberg, Jr. 2022 National Duty to God Award Recipient



Past National President of the Association for Baptists for Scouting

Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope

Chaplaincy Sub-Committee
Chair of the B.S.A. National Religious Relations Committee

Over 60 Years in Scouting



Ted Spangenberg Receives National Duty to God Award

The National Duty to God Award was established in 2016. Among the 26 recipients to date, there are no fewer than six Baptists, including Chip Turner who was one of two in the inaugural class of 2016. Chip was followed by Sam Houston (2018), Donna Copeland (2018), Merri Bolen (2020), and Thomas Martin (2021). Joining this esteemed group in 2022 is ABS Immediate Past President, Ted Spangenberg.

Ted started his Scouting as a Cub Scout 60 years ago. Scouting is better because of his lifetime devotion to the program and his "Duty to God." He exemplifies servanthood and his zeal for Scouting is truly refreshing. He is an Eagle Scout - part of four generations of Spangenberg Eagle Scouts - and a Vigil member of the Order of the Arrow. He was serving as a Scoutmaster by the age of 23. His service includes District Commissioner, Council Executive Board (President), and Southern Region Executive Board. He currently serves on the BSA National Religious Relationship Committee as the Chair of the Chaplaincy Subcommittee. He is a Deacon in his local Baptist church and an ordained minister. He served for 7 years as the National President of the Association of Baptists for Scouting. He has served on numerous National Jamboree staffs in such roles as Subcamp Chief and as Base Camp Chaplains' Coordinator. He has served at Philmont as the Course Director for Baptist Scouting and the inaugural BSA Chaplaincy course. He has been recognized with the District Award of Merit, the Silver Beaver Award, the Silver Antelope Award, and the Baptist Silver Good Shepherd Award. Ted serves God with Scouting, with his family, with his church, in his community, and across the nation.

Updated ABS Patches



Two iconic ABS patches have recently been updated. The purple bordered patch is presented to new and renewing ABS members. The yellow bordered patch is awarded to units who have achieved the Baptist Unit Award of Excellence. For details on both, please visit www.BaptistScouters.org.



Congratulations Eagle John Cooper Mason

John received his Eagle on February 10, 2022. He is an active member in Troop 252 of Davis, North Carolina in the East Carolina Council. His Eagle project consisted of repairing the Bulkhead at Luken Island Cemetery, across from South River in North Carolina. He was able to raise \$21,000 for the project. He has earned 49 merit badges. John is the son of Janie and Jonathon Mason of Williston, NC. His Court of Honor will be April 24.



Example of part of his project- Before



After



John, his father-Jonathon, Grandfather, Uncle

Congratulations to Harrison H. Dunn!



Harrison Dunn obtained the rank of Eagle in Troop 70 of the Greater Alabama Council, Talakto District, Huntsville, Alabama on July 9, 2021. For his Eagle project he designed an educational poster of the Alabama State Bird, the yellowhammer, and donated his design and framed posters to the State of Alabama and the Alabama Welcome Centers. Harrison is a member of First Baptist Church Huntsville. He is the son Ken and Kristy Dunn. Congratulations Harrison on reaching your goal.



Faith Davis Achieves the Highest Award in Venturing – The Summit Award

Scouts who received congratulatory letters from ABS during July, 2021 – March, 2022

Summit Award	
Faith Davis	Mesquite, TX

Eagle Scout Rank	
Gabriel Christian Dawley	Brandon, MS
Harrison H. Dunn	Huntsville, AL
John Cooper Mason	Williston, NC
Justin Ethan Stange	Fenton, MO
Noah Louis Mattison	Marion, NY
Garrett Michael Ulmer	Jarrettsville, MD
Carson Allen Helleman	Bethel Park, PA
Jeremy Ethan Blocklin	Bethel Park, PA
Brandon Kerper Smith	Bethel Park, PA
Michael Brendan Walsh	Bethel Park, PA
Jonathan Andrew Cluiss	Richardson, TX
Elijah Nicholas Henderson	Kansas City, MO
Jack Allen Boller	Wichita Falls, TX
Brady Goodwin	Manchester, TN
Luke Griffin	Cabot, AR
Jackson Jolley	Cabot, AR
Carson Shaver	Ward, AR
Travis Wade Duncan	Oneida, TN
Nolin Edward McCalskey	Tarvis AFB, CA
Larry Edward Jones III	Winter Springs, FL
William Erskine Stringer	Anderson, SC
Matthew Scott Westfall	Cypress, TX
Avery Grayson	Winston, GA
Caleb Grayson	Winston, GA
John Porter Larrence	Henderson, TN
Philip M. Ponder III	Whigham, GA
Dylan Middleton	Bryant, AR

On February 13, 2022, Faith Davis, a senior at John Horn High School in Mesquite, Texas, and a member of Venturing Crew 852 in the Circle Ten Council, earned the Summit Award, Venturing’s highest honor. Faith is the youngest of 5 children and the daughter of Kathy and David Davis.



Faith is among the few in Venturing who has earned this distinguished rank. Her steady, persistent progress through the ranks and servant leadership in Venturing helped her to achieve this prestigious award and demonstrates her determination that has prepared her for a meaningful and productive role in society.

Faith’s Summit project was to mentor her show choir, ENCORE, and help them choreograph dances to the songs for their final show of the year, the “Big Show”. Faith choreographed some of the dances to the songs and then led her fellow choir members to take charge and choreograph some of the other songs on their play list. Faith encouraged and helped her fellow students to achieve success and confidence now and be able to use their new skills after she graduates.

Leading up to earning the Summit Award, Faith earned the Venturing Award, Discovery Award, and the Pathfinder Award. She has participated in Scouting adventures, demonstrated leadership, and shown personal and service

growth. She earned the Venturing Leadership Award and the Four-Star Award for completing all four levels of the P.R.A.Y. series.

Faith has held several officer positions in her Venturing Crew, serves as an officer in the Council’s Venturing Officer Association and served on Area 2, Southern Region as the Vice President of Communications. She is a member of the Order of the Arrow as a Brotherhood Member and served the Chapter Chief of the local chapter, Tlanuwa Chapter. She has served as a lifeguard for three years on two of the Council’s summer camps.

Faith has been a PTA student member of and is serving as the senior representative of her high school PTA. She has served as the Communications Committee Chair for the Mesquite ISD Council of PTA’s executive board for two years. Several months ago, Faith joined the Army Reserves. Her goal is to obtain a four-year college degree while serving in the Army Reserves, then qualifying to be accepted into the military’s officer program.

Congratulations to Faith Davis for her achieving the Summit Award. Her exemplary performance in Scouting will serve as a beacon to those Scouts who follow her. Her Summit Court of Honor will be conducted on April 16, 2022.



Chaplain's Corner

By Jeff Thompson

A Leap of Faith

What was I thinking? How did I get myself in this situation? My heart was pounding, and my hands were wringing wet. It seemed a good idea at the time. Several years ago, I took my Scout Troop to do a COPE Course. COPE is an acronym for Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience and the challenge I brought them to do was a high ropes course. I hoped that through this experience they would learn communication, teamwork, problem-solving and trust. Everyone began the course with enthusiasm. I was the "sweep," the last one to go, so I could watch and encourage them. We all belayed in and began to climb the Giant's Ladder. Once everyone climbed the log ladder, we were fifty feet off the ground and continued with the challenge. Next, we crossed the Burma Bridge, a long challenging monkey bridge, then we slowly crossed the Walenda Walk, an inclined narrow log with multiple rope holds, and after several other challenges, we finally made it to the Caving Ladder, which was a glorified rope ladder. I could now see the zip line. That was the dessert of the COPE Course meal. It was a long line that carried us through the tree tops to the end of the course. However, after the Caving Ladder, I saw Scouts slowing down. "What's the holdup?" I asked. One Scout up front said, "We are waiting to leap out to the pole. I wondered what they were talking about. I focused past this Scout and saw a nightmare. Before the zip line, the rope course ended at a platform. From the platform, each Scout would have to leap about six feet and grab a horizontal pole. Once they clutched the pole, the bilayer would lower them to the zip line platform.

The Scouts were reaching for the courage to jump for the pole. One by one they made it. I was silently praying that one would not want to jump, so I could, in my magnanimous way, escort the Scout back down. However, my hope was in vain. Each Scout made the leap for the pole. Now it was my turn. There was nowhere to go but forward. The



Scouts were cheering me on. "Come on, Mr. Thompson, you can do it. They won't let you fall. If we can do it, you can. It's not hard!" Well, the students suddenly became the teacher. One of the Scouts said, "Just have faith and jump!" I looked at the pole. I looked at the ground fifty feet below. It might as well have been a mile. I saw the staff member holding my belay line encouraging me. I couldn't move. I was stuck. I suddenly realized I should have brought an extra pair of underwear. One of the Scouts was my son. "Dad," he said, "remember what you told me. Believe in yourself and anything is possible. You can do this." Yeah, now he lets me know he actually listens to what I say! I don't know if it was faith or shame, but I clinched my teeth, mobilized my energy and jumped and to my astonishment, I made it.

In the end, the COPE Course met my expectations. However, there was one thing I learned that I did not expect. The course taught me about faith. I realized that it is easy to have faith when all is going well. However, when faced with a difficult, even terrifying situation, faith is challenging. I literally had to make a leap of faith. Like Jacob at the Jabbok, faith is a wrestling match. As we move into 2022, it is appropriate for each of us in ABS to reexamine our faith. There is so much opportunity waiting, but first we must have the courage to leap. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." Oh, how I wish it had been only a step!



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



Members of Troop 417 chartered to The Connecting Church Milton Seventh Day Baptist of Milton Wisconsin attend worship services for Scout Sabbath on Feb 5.

Guess the Scouter

From the previous edition of *ABS Today*, below are four fun facts about one of our ABS Officers. Have you guessed who it is?

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.

Answer: President Donna Copeland

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/>

Guess the Location

From the previous edition of *ABS Today* -- To read this signage in person, you would be standing inside the Cimarroncito Protestant Chapel in the Philmont backcountry -- see cover story in the previous edition of *ABS Today*.



Share Your Baptist Scouting News

Please submit articles, pictures, and news items to AAshley@BaptistScouters.org



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