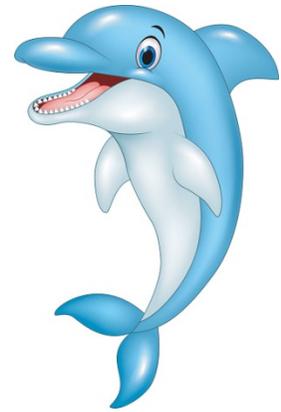


aRTie's mailbox

“Fun with a Porpoise”

May 2020



Scouters can “Ask Artie” questions that are on their minds by posting a note at Roundtable, asking your Unit Commissioner, or emailing District Commissioner Nancy Hodgkiss at nancy.hodgkiss@pacificabsa.org.

How do we submit membership applications for youth and adults now that much of Council staff is furloughed?

Here are your options, starting with the fastest:

- 1) For new members, [use online registration!](#) Your [area's servicing Commissioner](#) and District Commissioner [Nancy Hodgkiss](#) can help you set it up.
- 2) For transfers, scan and email applications to District Commissioner [Nancy Hodgkiss](#) and District Chair [Tim Shank](#). For security's sake, please DO NOT email an adult application with a Social Security Number. The Council Registrar will call the applicant to get the SSN when she is ready to process the form.
- 3) You can mail hard copy applications to GLAAC (Attn: Estela Chicas) 2333 Scout Way, Los Angeles CA 90026

We have new members joining our unit. How can we add money to our unit deposit account? If you're paying by credit card, contact Ana Chan in the Council Business Office at ana.chan@scouting.org or 213-718-4659. Due to the furloughs, Ana is only working Tuesdays and Wednesdays, but leave a message and she'll call you when she's in the office. You can also mail a check to GLAAC (Attn: Ana Chan) 2333 Scout Way, Los Angeles CA 90026

Our Troop successfully transferred the Scoutbook records for the Webelos who bridged in this Spring. Are they now registered with the Troop ?

[Transferring records in Scoutbook](#) does NOT change a Scout's registration, so you'll still need to submit a [Youth Application](#) to make the transfer “official.” While you may noting their advancement in Scoutbook now, it won't synch with the National database until the Scouts are actually registered with the Troop.

Will JTE criteria be changed because of COVID-19?

Revisions are in the works! See [this article](#) from Bryan on Scouting

Now that much of Council staff is furloughed, who's checking references on adult applications? Checking the references provided on the right hand side of an adult application is the responsibility of the unit's Chartered Organization Representative (see pg 19 of BSA's [Registration Guidebook](#)), so the furloughs don't have an impact on that task. The Council Registrar is still ensuring that every [adult application](#) is accompanied by the most current [background check authorization form](#) so BSA can screen volunteers.

How do I set up a virtual meeting?

Check out the tips in our Council [Scouting at Home](#) guide. If you follow the recommendation to use Zoom, the guide includes contact information for volunteer Heath Row, who has kindly offered to coach units in its use. If you're still struggling, contact your [area's servicing Commissioner](#) or District Commissioner [Nancy Hodgkiss](#) and we'll practice with you until you're comfortable.

We're meeting virtually, but we have a Scout with no internet access. What do we do?

First and foremost, make sure the Scout doesn't feel left out! Stay connected with phone calls or notes. Get creative—can you drop by care packages with suggested activities and materials? Provide recordings on a thumb drive? Your [area's servicing Commissioner](#) and District Commissioner [Nancy Hodgkiss](#) would be happy to brainstorm with you.

A lot of families have financial challenges right now. Are camperships still available?

Yes! Go to the Council Camping website (glaacbsa.org/camping) to download an application. Camperships are generally awarded first come, first served, so don't delay!

Does "virtual camping" count for the Camping Merit Badge?

It depends. Camping Merit Badge Counselors should read BSA's [COVID-19 FAQ](#) and the discussion of Merit Badge requirements in the Council [Scouting at Home](#) guide (around page 14) to determine whether the proposed virtual camp meets the intent of the requirement.

What's the status of my refund?

Camping Department personnel were furloughed before they were able to transfer refund records to the Business Office. Please be patient while Council organizes the records for the one person left in the business office (which is now only open two days a week) to process them. We anticipate that [refunds will begin June 1st](#).

Artie, what's your favorite country?

Fin-land!

Sea you next month!