

THE T-58 INDEPENDENT

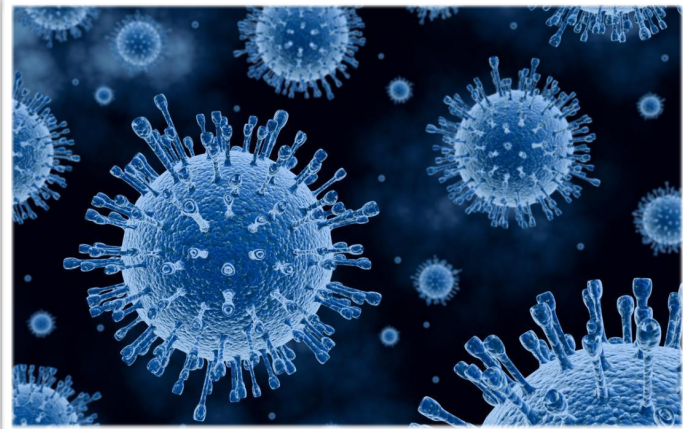
First Edition

This is the First edition of The BT58 Independent. I would appreciate any feedback you can give. I can be contacted at maxvwolff@icloud.com.

—Max Wolff, ASPL of Comms

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A Message From the Editor

We are living in a world of uncertainty and deceitful information. Today I speak to you to help reassure you and your family in these troubling times. Like many, I hope that COVID-19 will pass through without any harm to us and our loved ones. While we can't control the virus ourselves we can help

prevent the spread by taking certain precautions:

- Wash your hands before touching your face or something which will touch your face.
- If a loved one gets infected, quarantine them to a single room.
- Wash your phone. Your phone is dirtier than a toilet seat.
- Stay calm. To quote FDR, "All we have to fear is fear itself."

—Max Wolff, ASPLoC

TROOP 58

Davidson, North Carolina

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Editorial: A Reflection on Scouting

Scouting is one of the greatest youth organizations to be on this earth. However, the organization is struggling to stay afloat through a sea of civil cases and low recruitment. The current times are trying times for the BSA and its mission of “[Promoting] the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, to train them in scoutcraft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues” according to its federal charter in Title 36 U.S. Code § 30902. However, I believe that as long as there are people who believe in the vision put forth by Willam D. Boyce when he brought scouting to America in 1910, the BSA can survive. Even if the BSA fails and is dissolved, the vision will last and one

day it will begin anew; like a phoenix rising from the ashes, the scouting dream will continue on.

After this, you may ask yourself: “well that’s great and all but what vision is this you’re talking about?” Well, let me tell you about this vision. One foggy evening in London, England William D. Boyce was lost. An English scout helped Mr. Boyce, and that moment inspired Mr. Boyce to create an organization in



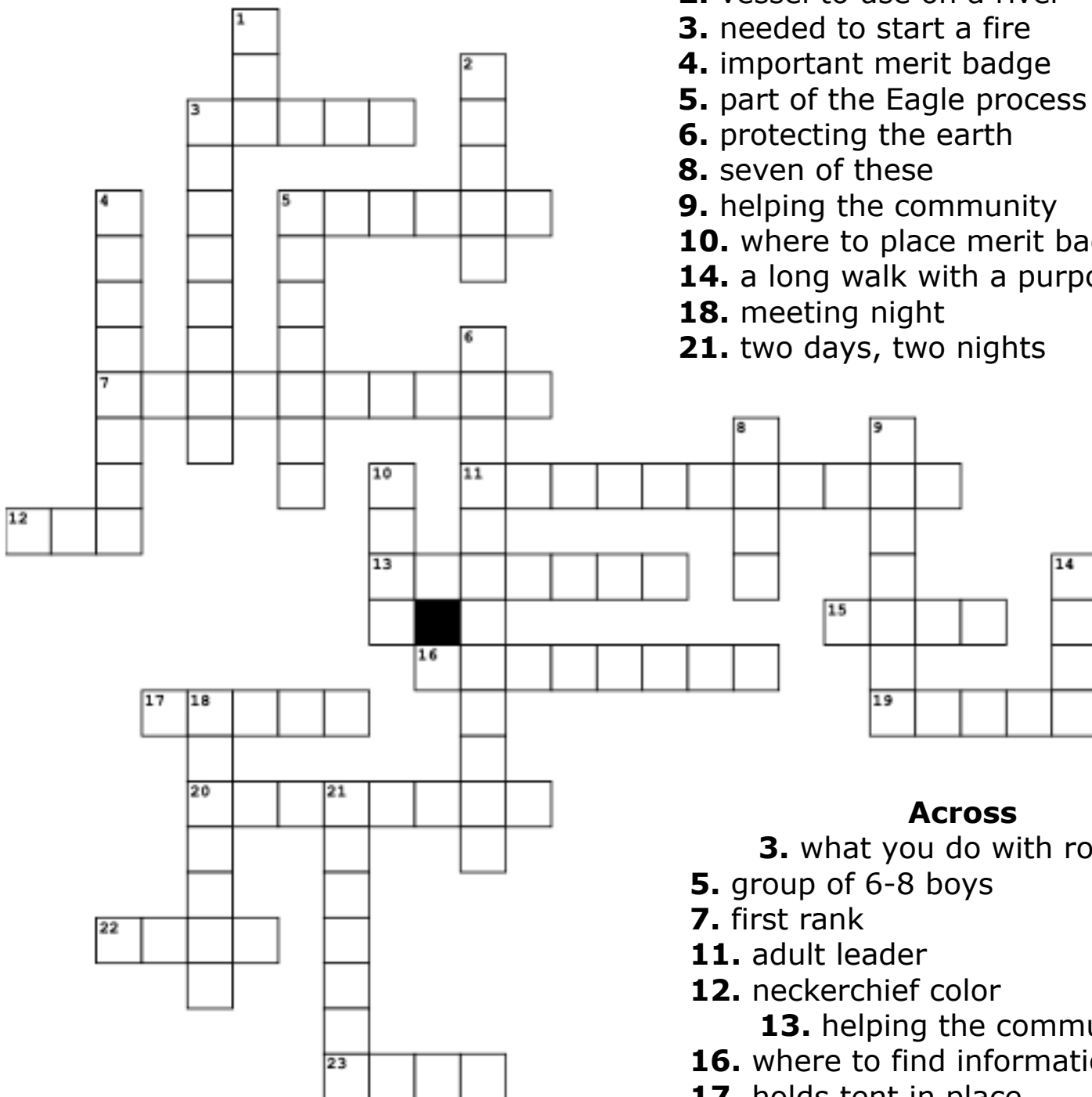
America that teaches young men to be shining examples of virtues such as good citizenship, courage, grit, and other such good things. From then on the BSA has been the vessel for the growing American scouting vision. That vision has continued, and that vision still stands strong today. Though it may falter at times, the bastion of scouting will continue on.

—Max Wolff, ASPLoC

Boy Scouts

Down

- 1. uniform shirt color
- 2. vessel to use on a river
- 3. needed to start a fire
- 4. important merit badge
- 5. part of the Eagle process
- 6. protecting the earth
- 8. seven of these
- 9. helping the community
- 10. where to place merit badges
- 14. a long walk with a purpose
- 18. meeting night
- 21. two days, two nights

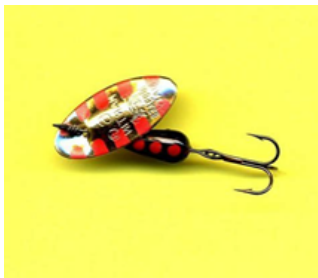


Across

- 3. what you do with rope
- 5. group of 6-8 boys
- 7. first rank
- 11. adult leader
- 12. neckerchief color
- 13. helping the community
- 16. where to find information
- 17. holds tent in place
- 19. highest rank
- 20. choosing leaders
- 22. symbol of our country
- 23. sleep in this

Cal's Fishing Tips

If you have ever been to Camp Daniel Boone and done the fishing merit badge, you know to get the merit badge you have to catch a fish. Catching a Trout, at CDB can be difficult if you aren't using the right tackle. The first thing I would recommend using is 6lb test line, this refers to how much weight it can hold before breaking. If you use fishing line any heavier than this the fish will see the line and won't take the hook or lure. The next thing I would recommend is using a small in-line spinner, salmon eggs or Berkley's power bait for Trout. If you are planning to an in-line spinner, ones that always worked for me are **1/8oz Panther Martins**, **1/8oz Rooster tails** or sizes **#0, #1, #2 Mepps**



spinners. To use one of the in-line spinner above just tie it onto your line and cast near where you think some fish might be. If you are going to be using salmon eggs or power bait cover the curved part of a size 8 or 10 hook and attach a small split shot about 8-10in above the hook onto the line. Just cast the bait out near where you think trout are and wait. Hope these will help you get your fishing merit badge or catch some fish just for fun.

-Cal Bryan

Leave No Trace Trainer Course

Most scouts are familiar with several types of youth training courses offered by Mecklenburg County Council (MCC). The most well known ones are Den Chief Training, Introduction to Leadership Skills for Troops (ILST),

Scouts Excited About Leadership Skills (SEALS), and National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT "Top Gun"). However, there is a training course offered that perhaps not as many people know about. The course is the Leave No Trace Trainer Course. This is a 16 hour course for both adults and youth age 14 or older who want to expand their knowledge on conservation and how to be considerate in the outdoors. You will learn about the seven principles of Leave No Trace and how to use them in order to preserve the outdoors. The educator who I took my course with has only had two scouts (including me) attend his course over the past five years. I learned how to present information to a group effectively (I had to present a 15 minute teaching module) as well as skills and reminders that help me preserve the outdoors. This course prepares you to teach the BSA Leave No Trace 101 course and also prepares scouts to be an effective Outdoor Ethics Guide. I believe it's important for every scout to have a basic knowledge in outdoor ethics.

The heart of scouting is spending time outdoors, so it's important to spend this time wisely and considerately. We depend on having these natural resources for camping, hiking, rafting and other fun experiences. It's important for all scouts to preserve the outdoors for future generations.

If you have any interest MCC BSA normally offers this course twice a year. Check here for dates <http://lnt.mcc-bsa.org/>

—Nick Daniels

A Reflection on Troop Leadership

Our troop is plagued by a cultural norm; ingrained into the spirit of Troop 58 is the notion that the positions not involving direct leadership, the "behind the scenes" positions, exist to give free leadership credit to those who do not wish to put in the effort or leadership ability. I have seen too many First Class scouts run for these positions, who once elected, never show their face again

in the troop and still get six months of leadership credit. In order to remedy this issue, the troop committee has placed in additional requirements for getting leadership credit, which involves monthly discussions with an adult leader to ensure that the scout is indeed making an attempt at fulfilling what he said he would do. Because of this idea, our leadership will drastically improve; more promises will be kept, and more ideas will be proposed.

National Youth Leadership Training emphasizes the Vision: what future success looks like. Each scout that runs for a position is encouraged to share their vision with the troop, including their idea of success for the troop, and the plan they have to reach that vision. Far too often the vision fades away when the scout disappears altogether from the program. With Scouts having an outside incentive to put their plans into action, they shoot for making their vision a reality, and progress is made.

The incentive to be active, coming from the troop

committee and from the leadership requirement of Eagle, draws all Scouts, not just the active ones, into positions, introducing another perspective into leadership. This new perspective often has ideas that, many times, the scouts that dominate the Patrol Leaders' Council never thought of. More ideas put on the table brings a successful tradition to an even higher standard.

As this system continues, I am incredibly excited to see what good the new Scouts will bring. As the amount of Second and First Class scouts grow, more Scouts are joining the ranks of Troop leadership, and with the incentive from the troop committee, every new First Class Scout brings another attempt at making the Troop a better organization.

—Will Harris