



SQUARE KNOT NOTES

Monthly Edition

From your Sam Houston Area Council Commissioner Team

August 2017

WILLIAM T. HORNADAY AWARD

Recognizes Scouts, Explorers and Scouters for conservation and ecology efforts in their communities.

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/HornadayAwards.aspx>



WEBELOS COYOTE EXTREME 11/10-12

Webelos Coyote Trail Xtreme (WCTX) is an annual event for 4th and 5th grade Webelos Scouts at [Bovay Scout Ranch](#). During this fast paced, fun-filled weekend Scouts will work on advancements and be introduced to the patrol method. Webelos Scouts will learn the importance of teamwork and skills they will need for their first Boy Scout camp out, such as fire lays, basic knots, and lashings. Space is limited, so register early.

EARN THE SOLAR ECLIPSE PATCH

A total solar eclipse is a rare event. A total solar eclipse whose path crosses right over the heart of the United States? Even rarer. On Aug. 21, 2017, the solar system serves up a special treat. Aug. 21 is a Monday, but those Scouts and Venturers who are still on summer break should plan a big celebration. Like all the best celebrations, this one comes with its own patch. There won't be another total solar eclipse over the United States until 2024. After that, you must wait until 2045. In other words, when Aug. 21 arrives, make sure you're ready. Here is how to earn the BSA 2017 Solar Eclipse patch:

1. Locate a site suitable for viewing the eclipse. Search Google for "eclipse viewing" and the name of your city or town to find events near you.
2. Describe how to safely view the eclipse.
3. Discuss with your group what you saw and felt during the eclipse.
4. Do the following:
Cub Scouts: Discuss what a solar eclipse is with your leaders.
Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts: Draw a diagram of the positions of the moon, earth, and sun to show how the solar eclipse occurs.
Venturers: Research Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington's 1919 experiment and discuss how it confirmed Einstein's theory of general relativity.
5. Ask your unit leader to buy the 2017 Solar Eclipse patch.

EAGLE PALM CHANGES

Eagle Palms are bronze, gold and silver awards presented to young men who earn five, 10, 15 or more merit badges beyond the 21 required to become an Eagle Scout. This week, the BSA has announced significant changes to the way Scouts earn Eagle Palms. The modifications took effect Aug. 1, 2017. The changes bring Eagle Palm requirements in line with the needs of older Scouts. The National Boy Scouting Subcommittee has eliminated unnecessary obstacles, such as the Eagle Palm board of review, and expanded the definition of active participation. But the biggest change affects young men who haven't yet earned Eagle. Beginning Aug. 1, all earned Palms may be awarded instantly to new Eagle Scouts at their Eagle court of honor. This abolishes the wait of months or years for these young men to receive all Palms available to them. Here's a look at what's changing. A new Eagle Scout can instantly receive, alongside his Eagle medal, all Eagle Palms he has earned for merit badges completed before he became an Eagle Scout. These Palms recognize additional merit badges earned before completing the Eagle board of review. Previously, an Eagle Scout needed to wait three months between each Palm — even if he earned the extra merit badges before becoming an Eagle. This meant that, under the old rules, a young man who became an Eagle Scout at 17 years and 10 months, was mathematically unable to earn any Eagle Palms. The three-month tenure requirement has been expanded to allow active participation in any BSA program — not just the troop and patrol. The leadership requirement has been broadened to include "accepting responsibility" as well as "demonstrating leadership. The Eagle Palm board of review has been eliminated.

CALENDAR

- 8/17 Council Coordinated
- 8/19 Popcorn Show n Sell Distribution
- 9/23 University of Scouting-Fall
- 9/30 Popcorn Blitz Day #1



UNIT STRONG

Strong units have trained leaders. University of Scouting is a great place to pick up awesome ideas and strategies to improve your unit's program!

Have a great idea, pressing concern, success story? Email squareknotnotes@yahoo.com. We serve *you*! Do you call communication feedback a gift? It truly is!