GEORGIA’S VIRTUAL BACKYARD CAMPOUT BRINGS THOUSANDS AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

The Atlanta Area Council’s Program Team took measures to quickly pivot in-person family camping to backyard camping with a virtual program for all.

The Atlanta Area Council, Boy Scouts of America hosted the first ever virtual Georgia’s Backyard Campout for over 3,000 Scouts on Saturday, April 25th. The all-day campout encouraged families to get outside, spend time together to learn new things and enjoy the great outdoors. The event featured activities like camp-fire cooking with Dutch Ovens, knot tying, bottle rocket launches, games and campfire songs.

“The Scouting experience is strong, and it’s times like this that the Scouting principles are so important,” explains Tracy Techau, Scout Executive/CEO of the Atlanta Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. “In good times and challenging times, we want to teach all of our children to be self-reliant, to be prepared, to do good daily and to help other people at all times.”

Scouts from across Georgia - from Marietta to Covington to Savannah - joined the live stream to participate in the activities to enjoy with their families, to encourage camaraderie, to learn new skills and to come together as friends and family.

Hilary Thornton, Scoutmaster of Troop 433 in Marietta, led a Dutch Oven cooking demonstration with his two sons. “We’re trying to create opportunities to continue the Scouting program during this time when we can’t gather in large groups,” he said.

Scouting is continuing through these times. While Scouts are unable to meet in person, they have taken to Scouting at Home with video conferences of their Scout meetings to plan community service projects, teach and learn Scouting skills, build camaraderie, and earn merit badges.

Scouting For Food has been a long-time service opportunity for Scouts to collect food and give back to those in need. Scouting families were eager to find ways to help and give back in many ways – food donations being one of them.
Volunteer President of the Atlanta Area Council Board and Chief Executive Officer of Oxford Industries, Tom Chubb, is pleased to introduce you to the newest member of the Council's Board of Directors.

**Welcome Aboard**

**Steve Soteres**  
*VP of Business Development*  
*Choate Construction Company*

With over 25 years at Choate Construction, Steve develops strong relationships with emphasis in the interior construction and tenant improvement world.

A longtime community volunteer, Steve’s interest in redevelopment along the northern corridor of Roswell Road is what propelled him to begin organizing stakeholders to look at innovative approaches to encourage improvements. He was elected to serve as Councilman of District 2 in Sandy Springs from January 2017-2021. Steve currently serves as a member of Leadership Sandy Springs, Shepherd Center Advisory Board and Mt. Vernon Presbyterian School Board of Trustees.

Steve's son Will is a Scout in Troop 463.

**TOP CAMPING FACILITIES REMAINS A PRIORITY**

Camp is a place where kids can learn, explore and share new experiences with new friends and fellow Scouts. While Scout Camp may not look the same as it has in the past as we take health precautions, the Atlanta Area Council Operations and Camp Staff are taking this time to make improvements to both Bert Adams Scout Camp and Woodruff Scout Camp.

Bert Adams Scout Camp's newest addition: **Triple J Scouting Pavilion**. This space will be an outdoor classroom for our Scouts, hold training sessions and provide a new kitchen area to prepare and host meals, as well as an additional bathroom facility.

Woodruff Scout Camp's newest addition: **The Blacksmith Forge**. This space will offer a new space where Scouts will be able to work on new blacksmithing skills, create and design materials and complete Merit Badge requirements.

**YOUTH PROTECTION SEMINAR KEYNOTE SPEAKER ANNOUNCED**

The Atlanta Area Council has been host to Atlanta's Annual Youth Protection Seminar for eight years. This year it is with great excitement to announce Robert Jackson as the Keynote Speaker.

Robert Jackson is a National Education Consultant. He began his teaching career almost 25 years ago in Indianapolis Public Schools. Jackson is an expert in teaching cultural diversity, restorative practices, social emotional learning and how to retain troubled students in school.

His goal is to teach educators and administrators how to use their power more effectively to Educate, Activate and Motivate all students to be successful. He challenges parents to take a more active role in their children's education. Robert also works with students to overcome pain and hardships through discipline and accountability.

It is of the utmost importance to provide children with a safe and healthy environment. Atlanta's Youth Protection Seminar offers a day full of training for youth-serving professionals across Metro-Atlanta to learn and teach best practices for keeping children safe in all environments. This year's seminar will focus on safeguarding youth from self-harm.

Atlanta's Youth Protection Seminar will be held October 8, 2020 at the Atlanta Area Council's Volunteer Service Center across from Truist Park. For more information or to register visit [AtlantaBSA.org/YPSeminar](http://AtlantaBSA.org/YPSeminar).
THE LAUNCH OF SCOUTING AT HOME

With the launch of a new resource hub AtlantaBSA.org/ScoutingAtHome and through community service projects, Scouts continue to Scout On amid pandemic.

COVID-19 and a state-wide order to shelter in place did not stop Scouts across Metro-Atlanta from carrying on with their learning and service to the community. While Scouts were unable to meet in person, they have continued to Scout at Home through meeting with their Packs and Troops virtually, planning community service projects, continuing to earn merit badges and even achieve Eagle Scout rank virtually!

In challenging times like these, Scouts have mobilized to help their neighbors and serve as a force for the greater good for their community. Scouting isn't new to this. Whenever our Nation has faced a crisis, our Scouts have been among the first in providing support to those in need and continue on. Check out what our Scouts have been up to:

Making Masks: Many of our Scouts are taking this time to learn new skills and help others. Scouts of Venturing Crew 2992 in Alpharetta aided frontline essential workers by sewing face masks.

Nathan Eads and Jack Buehner, Eagle Scouts from Troop 370 in Atlanta, and Max Seidel have launched their own company, Atlanta Face Shields, to 3D print face shields for the medical field. The group has distributed masks to Piedmont Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital to nurses and doctors testing patients for COVID-19. The company plans to continue to distribute these masks to medical professionals throughout Metro-Atlanta.

Providing Necessities: Atlanta Area Council Program Specialist Joshua Crawford and others are dedicated to ensuring the Scouts he serves are well fed – both body and mind. He has spent many mornings traveling around from Ralph David Abernathy to Hollywood Road delivering breakfast and lunch to Scouts in the Atlanta Public School district who are in need.

Collecting Donations: Troop 160 conducted a food drive called “A Bag of Hope” to aid and deliver to families who have been affected by Coronavirus.
DAY CAMP RE-IMAGINED
Cub Scout Day Camp now an option for all youth – Invite a neighbor today!

For Cub Scouts, Day Camp is often their first outdoor Scouting Camp experience. It is an opportunity for young Scouts to get a taste of all of the new and exciting activities Scouting has to offer, along with being able to enjoy it with their new Scout friends from nearby neighborhoods. Typically, Day Camp is a week long, in-person camp where Scouts start in the morning with activities like archery, BB guns, building and team building games. This year, with social distancing taking a prime seat, Atlanta Area Council Day Camps have shifted to Cyber Day Camp.

Scouts will still get to enjoy and participate in similar activities, but will be guided by leaders virtually. The greatest part of this newly-launched Cyber Day Camp is that any child can participate, not just registered Scouts, and even better yet, there are two price point options to choose from.

Families who are interested in signing up their child for Cyber Day Camp can choose to pay just $15 per youth, which includes a Day Camp shirt, patch and access to the online activities led by trained volunteer leaders. The second option includes a shirt, patch and a “Camp-in-a-Box” that can be mailed directly to campers which includes all of the materials needed for the week’s activities for just $65 per youth.

While Scouting activities look a little different, we are dedicated to continue to provide great experiences to help every child learn, grow and enjoy the thrills of Scouting!

Register today at
AtlantaBSA.org/DayCamp