



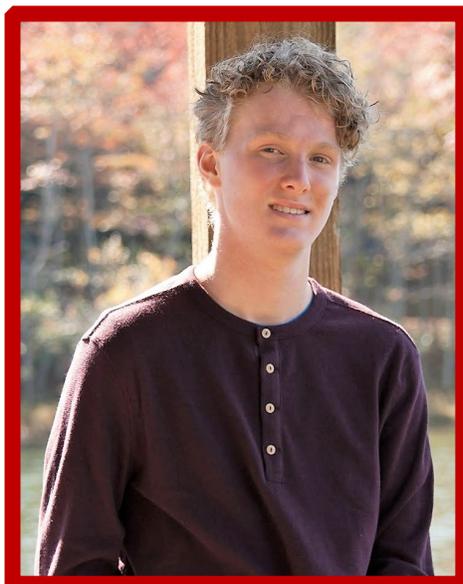
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NLAS Four Star Scholarship Awarded



For the first time ever, NLAS has awarded the Four Star Scholarship for \$500. The recipient of this award is Jack Towne of Suwanee, GA. Jack is a member of Epiphany Lutheran Church and received a glowing letter of recommendation from Pastor Chris Hermansen.

Jack is a founding member of Scouts-BSA Troop 608 and earned his Eagle Scout rank in 2017. He also earned 2 Bronze, 2 Gold, and a Silver Palm for earning over 60 merit badges. He also held numerous leadership positions.

As a graduate of North Gwinnett High School, Jack earned varsity letters in fencing, was a member of the German Club, Orchestra member, and is a member of the National Honor Society. This fall, Jack will be attending Eckerd College in St Petersburg, FL where he will be studying Marine Biology and its life on the coast. Jack hopes to become involved with the SCUBA club and Search and Rescue.

Congratulations on being the inaugural recipient of the NLAS Four Star scholarship and best wishes for the next chapter of your journey. Jack shared how honored he is to be selected for this scholarship. "I would have had no idea when I started with my PRAY classes way back in second grade that it would lead to a path of faith and also to a scholarship!"

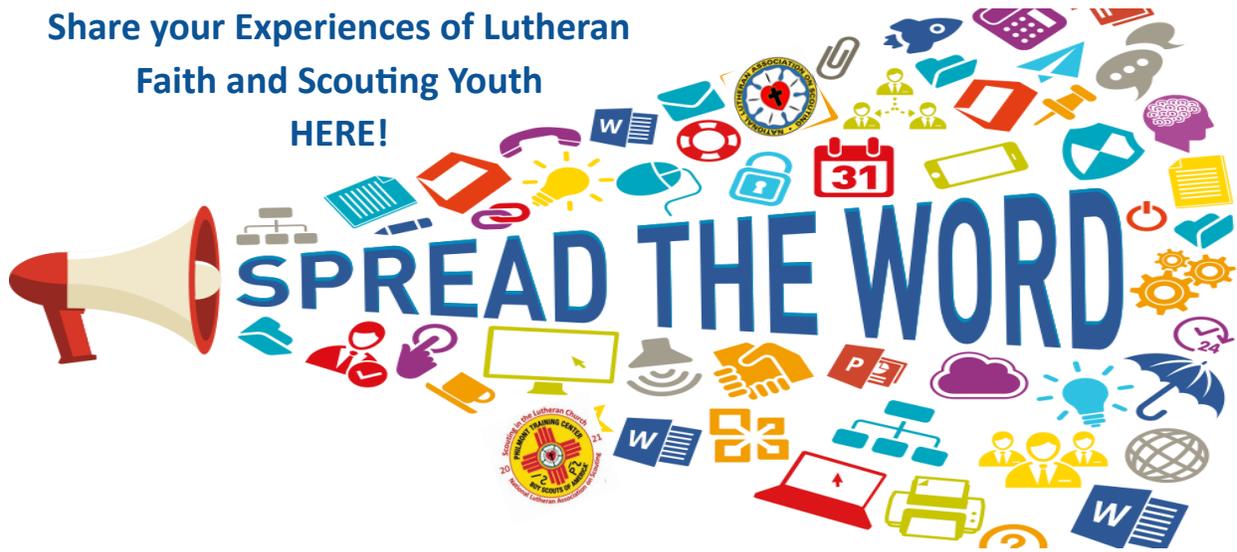
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Share your Experiences of Lutheran
Faith and Scouting Youth
HERE!



NLAS CONFERENCE REFLECTIONS FROM A NOVICE

I first learned of the NLAS in my 78th year. I either didn't care or had no one to show me because none of the Scout units I had been involved with were associated with the Lutheran Church, or any church for that matter. When we moved to Tucson and joined Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church at the behest of the pastor, our son, I was also invited to participate in the Troop sponsored by the church.

Four years ago, it became obvious I could no longer handle the camping and hiking in the desert and mountains I was asked to become the Unit Chaplain with my close association with pastor and the fact that I had served in Guam as a Called Pastor at the Lutheran Church of Guam.

I jumped right in and found out I was in over my head but my teaching experience and the final discussion between my son and the Scout I had been working with pastor bailed me out.

I knew there had to be an easier way. In 2020 during the pandemic, I learned of NLAS, joined and had planned to come to Philmont with my wife for our first trip here and hopefully find out more about being a Lutheran and bringing it to the Scouts.

After the initial session on Sunday night, I was somewhat relaxed despite the auto problems I had getting to Philmont. I came to the conference with an empty bag of knowledge of being a Unit Chaplain.

I surveyed the room with my eyes and ears and quickly learned that I was in the right group for my goals in Scouting. My goal in being at the conference was to learn and LEARN I did with the help of a very experienced group of leaders/teachers in the NLAS.

The first day I found out about the other participants at the conference, and I was put at ease and settled in to absorb as much as I could. We were a very diverse group and I quickly found out that the fellow Lutheran Scouters in the room were just what I needed.

As the week progressed and we discussed all the areas I felt where my shortcomings were located; history and goal of NLAS, Duty to God, the PRAY program, and almost too many things to say here.

In my job as Troop Chaplain, I keep looking at my right sleeve with the position patch and the empty space below it that should hold the "Trained" patch. Something I wanted to be. I had been trained in all my other positions over the years. My council does not offer Chaplain/Chaplain Aide



Reflections from a Novice continued on pg. 3



Chaplain Thoughts

An important part of NLAS ministry is providing Lutheran Chaplains for BSA high adventure bases and national events, such as the National Scout Jamborees. Are you, or do you know, a Lutheran minister, deacon, Director of Christian Education (DCE) or seminarian (who has completed at least one course in Clinical Pastoral Education) who would enjoy the challenge of working with a "congregation" consisting of hundreds of youth and adult leaders from across the U.S. and elsewhere in the world? In addition to planning and conducting worship services, you will be called upon to provide presence, pastoral care, and counseling in an all-faith environment, as well as visiting those in on-site medical facilities and assisting in event management in case of serious accident, illness or death. Women and men are needed who are willing to model how "a Scout is Reverent" while encouraging youth to engage in "Duty to God" activities, advocating participation in their faith tradition's religious award program, and assisting youth Chaplain Aides in carrying out their religious leadership duties. Does this sound challenging and exciting? Send us a note at: chaplain@nlas.org.

Candidates will be vetted by their District President, Synod Bishop, or other national church judicatory official as appropriate. It is important to contact the NLAS Lead Chaplain before submitting your Jamboree application, so the NLAS Lead Chaplain can reserve your selection as a chaplain!



Reflections from a Novice continued from pg. 3

training so I obtained the syllabus and quickly realized that I couldn't do it my self and felt with a little guidance from NLAS I could.

The conference taught me that there are a lot of resources to call upon to best complete my mission as a Troop Chaplain. The line-up of guest speakers and the great knowledge of the members of NLAS has given me the courage to attack the lack of training. Conversations with the Methodist and Baptist Scouters added to the ideas I brought back to Catalina Council.

As of this date, I have a "Help Wanted" ad for interested Unit Chaplains and pastors prepared for publication in "The Frontiersman" Catalina Council's weekly newsletter.

My overall impression of the conference was that the very dedicated and outstanding NLAS leadership need, like the old poster said, "**We Need You and You and You!**" I plan to continue and try to learn as much as possible to better serve my Church and Scouting.

As long as the Lord allows me to continue, I will provide spiritual guidance in our troop.

Bill Pavesic, Unit Chaplain, Pack 231/Troop 241, Catalina Council, Tucson, AZ





President's Perspective

He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. (Mark 10:14)"

I hosted the NLAS National meeting from Philmont Training Center in July. For those that haven't been there, Philmont is one of those places that epitomizes the scouting experience – rugged and beautiful terrain, awe inspiring sunrises and sunsets, and wonderful scouters who are committed to helping our youth on their faith journeys and personal development. I also participated in the weeklong seminar on 'Scouting in the Lutheran Church' facilitated by Wayne Stuckey and Jim Whitehead. Each day started with lively devotions given by the Rogahn family and then moved to presentations and discussions about what's being done to support our Scouting units, the religious emblem programs that are available, engaging Pastors and congregations in Scouting, and our impact of carrying the Gospel to youth who may not have any relationship with Jesus or a church.

It became clear that while what we do is important and really impacts youth and families, we have a number of challenges that need to be recognized – Covid-19, the BSA bankruptcy, generational changes that can make families hesitant about scouting and religion, and do our values still matter in today's world.

Those headwinds show us that not only is Satan alive and well, but that our message is needed now more than ever! Scouting provides an opportunity to experience the great outdoors, have fun, and develop values our youth can carry with them throughout their lives. The added component of the religious emblem programs affords them perspective and reverence for the world that God has given to all of us.

I think it may be easy to lose sight of the importance of those 1:1 relationships that we develop when sharing with our youth. Be open to the Holy Spirit putting you in the right place at the right time – a break along the trail, a campfire, a Zoom class discussing God & Family where you can ask the simple question – 'how are you doing?' That may be the beginning of a life altering conversation.

I've had a lot of days in the last year that have felt overwhelming and confusing that have forced me to rely on God's grace and guidance to make some sense of. If I feel that at my age with my life experiences, I can't imagine how much harder it is for our youth who may not have the depth of experience or the faith to see a path forward.

What we do in Scouting and NLAS matters – a lot! We are sharing our experiences, wisdom, and faith with those following in our footsteps with the hope (and expectation) that they will do the same when their opportunity arises. While we still wrestle with the big issues of our society, NLAS, and the future of our Scouting programs, be ready for that chance to forever change one youth – just like our Good Shepherd left the ninety-nine to rescue the one. That's why we do what we do for Scouting.

God's Peace,
 Phill Lawonn
 612-619-6779
plawonn33@outlook.com

2021

Scouting in the Lutheran Church Conference Footnotes



As happened with many things in 2020, plans were made, promotions started, faculty prepared and registration underway . . . then . . . **COVID**. Our 2020 conference was cancelled as the Philmont Training Center was closed for the season. With PTC cleared to operate in 2021, we dusted off our plans, restarted our promotions, confirmed our faculty and got prepped to welcome Lutheran Scouters from the East and West Coasts, the desert South-

west, the Northern Rockies, the Mid-West Farm Belt and the North Woods – a diverse, truly national group. Our course featured presentations on *Duty to God* at the *National, Council* and *Local Congregation* levels and in *Scout Advancement*; the *N.L.A.S.*; *Sharing Our Faith With Scouts*; *Organizing Scouting Units* and *Selecting Quality Leaders*; *Unit, Event and Camp Chaplaincy*; *Unit and Adult Recognition*, *Using Social Media*; and *disAbilities Awareness*. P.R.A.Y. Executive Director Jason Noland gave us an in-depth explanation of the *P.R.A.Y Programs and Resources*, including the *RP-3 Program*. Kristen and Matt Roghan led us in a “hands-on” experience with the Religious Emblems at the Cub Scout and Scouts BSA grade levels.

[PTC continued on pg. 7](#)

[Jack continued from pg. 1](#)

This photo is from an earlier time of Jack’s Scouting career, but not the beginning. This is Jack and his sister, who also earned the rank of Eagle and is a 4 Star recipient.

His troop has offered all the PRAY series classes 5 times which has allowed all ranks of scouts to earn their religious emblems of their age and to complete the levels as they age up. They extended the invitation outside of their home troop to Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts USA.

For those that would like to be considered for future scholarships, please review the requirements and application on the NLAS website. Applications will be received from January 1 to March 31 each year and NLAS offers two (2) \$500 scholarships annually.



[PTC continued from pg. 5](#)



In addition, we were blessed to have an open and frank update and discussion on the BSA bankruptcy situation and upcoming program enhancements with Wendy Kurten, Director of Council Services in the BSA National Office.

Other guest presenters were Chip Turner, Philmont Chaplain and past-chair of the BSA National Religious Relationships Committee and Amanda Voght, chair of the Social Media subcommittee of the BSA NRRC.

Our evenings included the N.L.A.S. National Annual Meeting, with attendees both in-person and on ZOOM on Monday, followed by Western Night, Movie Night (*"Follow Me Boys"*, of course), and Craft Center and Cobbler night.

NLAS President Phill Lawonn shared a summary of our course during the all-conference closing on Friday afternoon which also featured the presentation of the coveted SILVER BUFFALO CHIP AWARD to our Lutheran Philmont Chaplain Wally Mees as well as NLAS President Phill Lawonn and past-presidents Wayne Stuckey and Jim Whitehead.

Our next conference has not yet been scheduled, but when it is - - - YOU will be invited! Answer the call and join us! COME . . . SHARE THE PEACE!



Girl Scout Sunday March 6, 2022

Girl Scouts have a longstanding tradition of celebrating with our faith partners during Girl Scout Week each year in March. We do this to help girls celebrate the connections between their faith and Girl Scouts, and thank faith partners for their support throughout the year.

Girl Scout Sunday is March 6, 2022. You can celebrate your Girl Scouts on this day or another day of your choosing. Girl Scouts can participate in your worship service, join in a pre- or post-service activity, or do a service project for your community. This is also a great time to recognize the Girl Scouts and caring adults who support them who have earned their [religious recognitions](#) including Lutheran-based troops that have earned the new [Lutheran Recognition of Excellence Award](#). Find resources to plan a Girl Scout Sunday with your local Girl Scout troops [here](#).



If you would like to grow your partnership with Girl Scouts or explore a new partnership, we invite you to reach out to your local Girl Scout council to explore opportunities. Girl Scouts offers your families lots of ways to reengage and reconnect after a year online. To find your local council, go to [Find a Council - Girl Scouts](#). In addition to Girl Scout Sunday, you can host a Girl Scout troop during the year; provide meeting space; host Girl Scout-led programming to help girls build their leadership, STEM, and outdoors skills; and engage girls in service opportunities for your community.

Together with our partners, Girl Scouts builds compassionate girl leaders with the values and skills to make the world a better place. We look forward to working with you.

Thank you!
 Kara Ball
 Director, Faith-Based Partnerships
 Girl Scouts of the USA



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VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.nlas.org



We are a resource for youth and adults who wish to know more about the religious emblems program, endorsed by the Lutheran Churches for members of Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts USA, American Heritage Girls, 4H and Camp Fire USA.

NLAS Mission

To equip Lutherans and other Christians to minister to young people, using the programs of our partner youth serving agencies.

NLAS Vision

That all young people and their families are exposed to Jesus Christ and have an opportunity to know him as Lord and Savior

The mission and visions statements were accepted by the NLAS Executive Board on October 12th, 2002