



LUTHERAN SCOUTING

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SUMMER 2024



Philmont Memories, 2024



For a different sort of conference, six Lutherans gathered with members of several faith groups at the Philmont Training Center for a week of learning, fun, fellowship and worship. The *Religious Relationships Week* conference brought together Scouters of the Lutheran, Baptist, Catholic, Church of Christ, United Methodist, LDS, Jewish, Bahai, and Zoroastrian faiths.

Our contingent included our new president, Kristen Rogahn; past presidents Tom Miller, Phill Lawonn, Wayne Stuckey and Jim Whitehead; and our newest member, Kyle Verrett.



The different “spin” on this conference was that, as each faith group uses Scouting, we have more in common than we are different. Topics included sessions for specific adult positions, faith group specifics (repeated sessions to learn about Lutherans and two others), plus 26 different University of Scouting-type classes. We



also had a conference-wide session for each faith group to share a “*What you need to know to work with a member of our faith in your unit*” summary. As if all of this

wasn’t enough, we also had opportunities of several tours and/or service projects both in base camp and the backcountry.

Beyond the “class-learning”, perhaps the best part of the conference was sharing between sessions and the conversations around the breakfast, lunch and dinner tables with volunteers from 38 councils around the country. The different perspectives and ideas were a wonderful addition to the planned course content.



The NLAS annual meeting was conducted on Monday evening and featured the installation of our new officers: Kristen Rogahn, President; Ben Wheeler, President-Elect; Wayne Stuckey, Secretary; Tom Miller, Treasurer; and board members-at-large Aaron Rogahn and Jim Whitehead.

All in all, we were blessed to have the opportunity to have another amazing week in an amazing setting!



The sunsets are magnificent!



A true Sunrise Chapel Service!

I Wanna Go Back To Philmont!

NLAS Annual Meeting 2024

The 2024 annual meeting was held on July 8th at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, NM. In conjunction with the Religious Relationships Week Conference.

There were about a dozen people attending in person and a similar number attending via zoom, which was the highest level of participation in several years.

In addition to the election of officers for the upcoming two years, the assembled group approved several actions that were presented by the Executive Board, as follows:

- ◇ To continue to offer a one-year complimentary membership to those that attend national events and to those who received either the Servant of Youth Award or the Lamb Award and are not already members of NLAS.
- ◇ To extend the application deadline for this year's 4-star scholarship awards until October 1st. This requested by due the fact that we have had NO applicants so far this year.
- ◇ To update our literature and that of our partner agencies to specifically state that NLAS provides youth awards for several of the smaller Lutheran bodies, such as the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) and the Lutheran Church in Mission for Christ (LCMC). This was prompted by an e-mail from a scoutmaster in a NALC congregation who wanted to know which youth award was the right one for his scouts. A similar action with respect to the adult recognitions was tabled so as to clarify whether NLAS or the individual church bodies were the authorizing agency.



"PLEASE JOIN US NEXT YEAR!"

Our National Lutheran Association on Scouting invites you to join us next year to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Philmont Training Center!

Our next **SCOUTING IN THE LUTHERAN CHURCH** conference will be held the week of July 6 – 12, 2025.

Mark your calendar now and watch for complete information in future issues of *The Lutheran Scouter*!



NLAS 4-Star Scholarship Extension

Because NLAS did not receive any scholarship applications by 5/1/2024, the NLAS Executive Board decided to extend the deadline for one \$500 scholarship if submitted by **10/1/2024**. This scholarship is available to High School seniors and the requirements are listed on the NLAS website at NLAS.org/youth-awards and on p. 6 of this newsletter.

Please take advantage of this extension, if possible. NLAS is also looking forward to receiving applications for the '25-'26 school year by 5/1/2025 for our two \$500 scholarships.

Scouts in Action

Scouts Read

At 5:30 in the afternoon on May 3, 2024, Scouts from 3 units in Elgin, Illinois gathered at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (ELCA) to read sacred texts. This was part of the international initiative of "Scouts Read Sacred Texts" held on the National Day of Prayer. The six Scouts – ranging in rank from Wolf Cub to Eagle Scout – and four Scouters were from three different units and, while most were members of Bethlehem, they also represented various faiths, including Zoroastrian.



The readings included Old and New Testament verses as an overview of the Christian faith. Two prayers from the sacred text of Zoroastrianism were also read in Avestan and in English.

The event was recorded, and may be viewed, on Bethlehem's YouTube channel @blcelgin.

Flag retirement ceremony for Local Lutheran Church.

In 2020, as an Eagle Scout project for Michael Jacobson of Troop 88, Michael prepared landscaping and erected a flag pole on the grounds of King of Kings Lutheran Church in Gardner KS. The flag pole was erected in front of the Open Arms Child Development Center, in honor of a young member of the congregation who died in a tragic car accident as he was walking home from elementary school.

Since the flag pole was erected, each year the Scouts from Troop 88 conduct a Flag retirement ceremony for the congregation and community. The congregation collects the flags to be retired in advance, and the Scouts prepare the flags for retirement the week before the event. The Lutheran Laymen's League provided a meal for all in attendance that included grilled 1/3 pound

hotdogs, chips and pop.

The Scouts did a wonderful job in facilitating the retirement ceremony! Their preparedness, dedication and professionalism in conducting the ceremony was impressive, especially to the Military Veterans, First Responders and adult Eagle Scouts in attendance. Great Job Scouts!



Kansas Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts Partner with LERT to Learn about Severe Weather

As you have undoubtedly seen in the news, Severe Weather season is upon us in the Heartland. Tornadoes, flooding and severe winds are common in the Midwest.

To prepare for the severe weather season, Girl Scout Troop 3193 (King of Kings Lutheran Church) and Scouts BSA Troop 88 partnered with the Northeast Kansas Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) to learn how to recognize, observe and prepare for severe weather.

The LERT squad arranged to have as lead speaker KCTV5 Meteorologist Warren Sears, who graduated with a degree in Atmospheric Science from the University of Kansas.



An educational and fun time was had by all. The Scouts, in addition to learning about severe weather were able to ask Warren numerous questions about his career in Television News. Warren was very gracious and obliged the Scouts with many photos!

Eagles in Action

Hannah Kolakowski, of Scouts BSA Troop 9111 (chartered to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Elgin, IL), was determined to do an Eagle project that would improve accessibility for those with mobility disabilities.

Hannah's family, who are members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Elgin, love all things outdoors. Hannah and her mother have both worked at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Camp in Oregon, IL. But in 2018, Hannah's dad suffered an aneurysm and a stroke. According to Hannah, "Watching my dad struggle showed me just how inaccessible some outdoor environments are." This was the spark for her Eagle Scout Service Project.

Working with the naturalist at a local nature center, she found that the fire ring at Hawthorne Hills was dangerous and not accessible for someone in a wheelchair. She also found that most of the trails wouldn't accommodate a standard wheelchair. Hannah decided to install an accessible fire-ring and purchase an all-terrain wheelchair that could be borrowed from the nature center. Hannah's crew of Scouts, Scouters and other volunteers dug out



the old ring, set cement footings, installed the specially designed fire ring, leveled the area and fixed the benches around the ring.

Part one of the project was done. Part two was raising funds to purchase an all-terrain wheelchair. Hannah visited churches and service organizations telling her story and soliciting donations. She raised \$4000 to purchase the chair.

Reflecting on her work, Hannah observed "I look forward to seeing the impact that this has on my community, and I am glad that I was able to make it happen. I hope that this inspires more community projects focusing on accessibility."



Wait . . . did you say
"change" is coming?

Jim Whitehead, past president

By now, you've probably seen the announcement that the name of the Boy Scouts of America is changing next February. In fact, you may have already seen the change in your council's communications, patch designs, camp shirts, etc. If your council or district is like mine, this announcement may have resulted in much moaning, groaning and gnashing of teeth.

Relax! The change will not have any effect on your unit's program or your Scouts' experience!

What's *NOT* changing?

The Scout Oath and Law

The values of Scouting

Leadership lessons

Fun and adventure

Life-changing experiences

What it means to be a Scout

Duty to God

What *IS* changing? The name:

Scouting  America

Why is the name changing?

The change was made to reflect the organization's ongoing commitment to welcoming every youth in America to experience the benefits of Scouting.

It's important to note that the names of the programs offered by the organization — Cub Scouting, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts and Exploring — remain unchanged.

Scouting America is the reflection of years of work to create an organization to prepare every youth in America to lead a life of purpose and impact. The new name is representative of the path for Scouting to chart for the next century. *Scouting America* welcomes all youth. Scouting is an environment where everyone should feel respected and valued.

President's Perspective



Greetings my fellow Lutherans, I will take this opportunity to tell you a little about me. I am Kristin Rogahn; I am wife to Matthew for 25 years, a mother of three wonderful kids Kristopher (Victoria) 27, Zachary 25, and

Ava 13, and grandmother to Emersyn Faith 2½; I'm self-employed. I have been a member of the National Lutheran Association on Scouting since 2007 and have attended multiple conferences and two national jamborees on behalf of the NLAS. In my free time (lol) I like to work on antique vehicles, cross stitch, read, but mostly spend time with family.

Over the next few months, I will be reaching out to our membership. I want to hear what our members think we should be doing. The focus I would like to see us working on is tied to Matthew 28:19-20. "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." God gave this commission for each of us, and I believe that as we attend the many functions that are scheduled throughout the next few years, we have the wonderful opportunity to continue Christ's ministry and grow the kingdom of God.

We have a duty to continue Christ's ministry on earth and we can continue to do this by reaching out through the youth serving organizations that we partner with. Along with the information that I gain from our members, I would like NLAS to be hands and feet on the ground at the LCMS and ELCA youth gatherings, the GSUSA conference, the AHG conference, and any local events that each member is a part of.

There are three specific goals that I would like to accomplish during my term as president.

First, as I stated before, I want to find out where the members of the NLAS would like to see us moving forward. Are we fulfilling the duties that the organization believes are important? Do our members agree with the direction that the executive board is taking this organization?

Second, I want to get back to attending youth gatherings. No, I do not want us to stop working with the youth serving organizations and ministering to the youth and adults within these programs, however, I see a benefit in promoting the religious emblem programs to our Lutheran youth as well.

Third, the NLAS has the opportunity to attend two larger events in the next two years. We are looking at having a Scouting in the Lutheran Church conference at Philmont in 2025 for the Philmont Training Center's 75th anniversary, and we are also looking at having a Lutheran booth once again for the 2026 Jamboree. The two events are great opportunities to gain experience and grow as an organization, but more importantly, they offer amazing opportunities to share our faith with others.

As we start the next chapter of the NLAS, I would like to thank the people that have so diligently served our organization. Thank you specifically to Tom Miller for his term as president, and a big thank you to Phill Lawonn for his 10 years of service to the NLAS. We appreciate all the things that each of you has done to help spread the kingdom.

With God by our side, the ministry of the NLAS can be shared with hundreds, even thousands of youth and adults within or outside of our country. Together we will share God's message to everyone we encounter.

Yours in Christ and Scouting,

Kristin

NLAS Four Star Scholarship

Amount: Two (2) \$500.00 scholarships will be awarded annually by NLAS

Eligibility: Open to all youth registered with American Heritage Girls, Girl Scouts of the USA, or Boy Scouts of America who have successfully earned four (4) P.R.A.Y. Program Awards and are seniors in high school. Scholarships are for post-secondary education and will be paid directly to the designated institution.

Criteria for consideration:

1. P.R.A.Y Awards: Earning the following: 1) either Jesus & Me or God & Me, 2) God & Family, 3) God & Church, and 4) God & Life.
2. Congregational activities: Summary of participation in home congregation such as confirmation education, youth group activities, or church sponsored programs. In addition:
 - A 500-1000 word faith statement from applicant.
 - Letter of Recommendation from Pastor of home congregation.
3. Academics: High School transcript reflecting a minimum of six (6) semesters of academic achievement that states unweighted and weighted GPA.

4. Summary of Extra-Curricular activities/ awards: Summary of activities (such as athletics, drama, robotics, band, or choir) and awards (such as varsity letter(s), NHS, or John Philip Sousa award).

5. Scouting program: Summary of participation years and highest rank achieved (such as Gold Award, Stars & Stripes Award, Eagle Scout rank).

Qualifying Institutions: Accredited Junior Colleges, Colleges, Universities, or Vocational Schools. Awarded scholarship funds will be paid directly to the institution in the name of the recipient for tuition costs only. Funds cannot be applied to books, room & board, or travel expenses.

Application Process:

Applications may be submitted to NLAS from January 1 to May 1, 2024.

Review by NLAS will be completed by May 15, 2024.

Recommended recipients will be approved by NLAS Board by June 1, 2024.

Recipients will be notified by June 15, 2024.



Council-level Duty to God Award.

Similar to the National Duty to God Award, the Council *Duty to God Award* was created by the BSA National Religious Relationships Committee to recognize those registered Scouters who have demonstrated an exemplary history of transformational leadership in supporting and promoting the spiritual foundation of Scouting at the local Council level. Information and nomination applications are available at the Duty to God BSA web site <http://bit.ly/3LqUjtB>

An unlimited number of nominations can be submitted to any Council each year, but a maxi-



imum of two Council Duty to God Awards per year may be awarded by 100 and 200 level councils and a maximum of one Council Duty to God Award per year may be awarded by 300, 400, and 500 level councils.

The NRRC suggests that the Council Duty to God Award presentation should be conducted with the highest level of honor at a council event (such as the council's Silver Beaver recognition) or a religious emblem ceremony of the recipient's faith. Each recipient should receive recognition worthy of the service rendered on Scouting's behalf.

NLAS Board

NLAS Officers

President:	Kristin Rogahn	Kristin.rogahn@gmail.com
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Member at Large:	Aaron Rogahn	
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Ex-Officio

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Chaplaincy:	Rev. Richard Egtvedt	2kingsrick@gmail.com

Special Committees

NLAS Lead Chaplain:	Rev. Richard Egtvedt	2kingsrick@gmail.com
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Certificates Available

Upon request, the NLAS Recognition Committee offers a recognition certificate to youth and adults who have achieved Lutheran or Scouting awards. Complete the form on the NLAS website (one submission per award) and NLAS will recognize you or your scout with an NLAS Certificate of Commendation.



From the Editor

Here are the submission deadlines for upcoming issues of *Lutheran Scouter*:

Winter - January 1

Spring - April 1

Summer - July 1

Fall - October 1

Please submit articles and/or photos for upcoming issues by the dates listed. These are intended to be hard deadlines, however, if there is a reason for you to delay an article, please contact me either by email or phone (847-337-0903). Of course, you can submit articles or pictures at any time in the month preceding the deadline.

I would like to see more articles like "Eagles in Action" or "Scout Sunday Activities".



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DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR FALL ISSUE: OCTOBER 1, 2024



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