



October 2020: Pack 55 Monthly News

Fall has finally arrived with the recent “cold” front. Hopefully, you and your family have been able to get outside and enjoy the weather. Our kids are back and school, some in-person and some virtually, and football is being played, but we all know this is far from a typical start to fall. Since March 13, 2020, we have been conducting only virtual gatherings as a pack, and within our dens, out of necessity due to COVID-19 concerns. However, given improving trends in local COVID-19 positivity and transmission rates, Pack 55 in-person, den-level gatherings of 10 people or less (inclusive of scouts, leaders, adults) in outdoor spaces will be allowed, effective immediately. Strict adherence to the previously announced **Pack 55 In-Person Gathering Protocols** (attached again) will be mandatory. These protocols have been developed using guidance from the State and local government, the Boy Scouts of America/SHAC and our charter organization, St. John the Divine. Direct any in-person gathering questions or concerns to your den leader and to pcc@pack55.org. Participation in any in-person events is strictly left to the discretion of each individual family. We want to provide positive scouting experiences for all families in our pack, whether you choose to take part in these in-person gatherings, or whether you prefer to continue Scouting-from-Home and participating virtually. To help families and dens find some socially distanced, fun, outdoor activities, we have included a resource guide (attached) with virtual scouting resources, as well as nearby venues where socially distanced, outdoor fun can be found. Communicate your needs and concerns to your den leaders or pcc@pack55.org. We want your feedback and your ideas for how to make scouting great even in these challenging times. Let’s all keep “Scouting On” this fall.

October:

Wednesday, 10/7 @ 7 PM, Pack 55 Field Day Planning Meeting, Virtual - Join us to help plan our November 7th In-Person Pack 55 Field Day. We want at least one representative from each rank present. Bring your ideas for socially distanced, outdoor scouting fun. Come help make this event a success. Email pcc@pack55.org with any questions.

Thursday, 10/15 @ 7:00 PM, Pack Meeting, Virtual - Join us for a STEM event delivered live from the Houston Museum of Natural Science - ***Earth Science on Wheels Dinosaur Discovery Presentation***; scouts can start earning the STEM Nova Award “Science Everywhere” with this activity, and then complete the remaining requirements as a family and have them approved by one of our Pack 55 STEM Nova Counselors. Please find attached grade appropriate educational packets that can be used before or after the talk. Join the Dinosaur fun at the pack meeting.

Earn the unofficial Pack 55 COVID Camper Award patch! - Large group camping as a pack is not possible this fall, but that does not mean camping has to stop. To receive the patch, snap a photo of your family camped out anywhere for the night (backyard, State Park, other) anytime between July 1 and December 31, and send it to campmaster@pack55.org.

Popcorn Sales are Online! - You and your scout have all the information you need to get busy selling popcorn online. Set up your account and create a short video to send to your friends and family. Do this before school gets

back into full swing. Popcorn sales comprise about 40% of our annual pack revenues, and the FY 2020-2021 budget assumes a \$350/scout sales goal, so let's hit this target.

10/16-18, Jamboree on the Internet Families and Dens can register individually at:

<https://www.scouting.org/international/jota-joti/joti/>. This event happens once per year, so join the fun!

Saturday, 10/17 and 10/24: Fall Adventure Days at Camp Bovay (In-Person)

- October 17, 2020 | 1:00 - 8:45 pm (Spookoree)
- October 24, 2020 | 1:00 - 8:45 pm (Spookoree)
- November 21, 2020 | 8:00 am - 1:00 pm
- December 5, 2020 | 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Adventure Camp will be a half-day event at Bovay Scout Ranch. Lions, Tigers, Wolves, Bears and Webelos Scouts (accompanied by a parent or guardian) can participate in an exciting variety of activities such as archery, BB guns, fishing, and sports (or a haunted hike in October)

Go to <https://shac.org/adventure-camp> for more information and to register your family. These events are not sponsored by Pack 55; all questions should be directed to geno.aguilar@scouting.org at Bovay Scout Ranch.

Recruitment is in full swing! Are there families in your scout's school who might join Pack 55 if they knew more about it? We want to share the fun of scouting with as many families as possible. Share this link with your friends: <https://my.scouting.org/VES/OnlineReg/1.0.0/?tu=UF-MB-576paa0055>. Questions? Contact registrar@pack55.org.

Looking Ahead to November and December:

Saturday, 11/7, 9 AM - 3 PM: Pack 55 Field Day (In-Person), Backyard Campout and Virtual Campfire: This hybrid event will replace our traditional state park campout this fall. This event will tentatively include in-person, socially distant activities on the North Lawn at St John the Divine (along River Oaks Blvd), with phased arrival times by rank and strict in-person gathering protocols. .

Webelos Woods hosted by Twin Bayou District - Date TBD, likely early November

November 9-12 (virtual) and November 14 (in-person): University of Scouting Training:

<https://www.samhoustonbsa.org/university-of-scouting> Join online or in-person for this excellent adult training administered by SHAC. All parents and leaders are welcome to attend.

Saturday, Dec 5, 12 2020 and Jan 9, 23 2021: God and Me/Family: A scout is Reverent. This is a voluntary program offered by St. John the Divine for all cub scouts. Your own religious institution may offer similar, tailored programs. The God and Me program is designed for 1st-3rd Grade (Tiger, Wolf and Bear), and the God and Family program is designed for 4th and 5th graders (Webelos). Scouts will have fun earning their Religious Emblem as a small group. The four, 1-hour sessions will be conducted in-person (conditions permitting) or virtually. Questions? Send an email to chaplain@pack55.org.

Virtual Events: Pack 55 encourages all dens to remain connected and engaged while observing social distancing. The Pack supports regular, YPT compliant den communications via email, phone or video chat. Scouts may complete any remaining required adventures or electives as a family. Dens may coordinate periodic

virtual meetings to discuss advancement activities. Please do this at least monthly. Even as we begin to offer some in-person gathering options, virtual events will still be a part of our scouting program.

Youth Protection: In order to protect the health and well being of our youth members, we must ensure 2 adults are present at every in-person gathering, on each call and on any form of digital communication at all times. Two deep leadership must be maintained in the virtual world as well as the in-person world. Stay engaged virtually or in-person, but remember that our scouts' safety is of paramount importance. Your den leaders are being provided guidance on rules for virtual engagement and best practices for video conferencing. If you have questions or concerns, or ideas for how best to navigate the potential need for virtual meetings or our return to in-person gatherings, please reach out to your den leader or pcc@pack55.org.

Key Volunteer Opportunities: *Popcorn Co-Chair, Assistant Campmaster, and Training Chair.* Join the fun!

Thank you to Sean Smith for volunteering as Popcorn Co-Chair: Sean stepped forward to serve in this important role, and for that we say thank you. We are still looking for a second volunteer to assist Sean and Kathryn this fall. Are you looking for a way to make a difference? Email the Cubmaster (cubmaster@pack55.org) or Committee Chair (pcc@pack55.org) and join the Pack 55 popcorn team.

Asst. Campmaster: Enjoy camping? Volunteer will assist in planning and overseeing 3 annual packwide camping events next year and then lead for 2021-2022.

Training Chair: Enjoy giving adult leaders the tools and training they need to be successful? Volunteer to help promote and manage leaders' training.

Contact the Cubmaster (cubmaster@pack55.org) or Committee Chair (pcc@pack55.org) for more information.

Pack Information:

New Scout Coordinator and Registrar: registrar@pack55.org Encourage interested new scouts and families to submit an application online at:

<https://my.scouting.org/VES/OnlineReg/1.0.0/?tu=UF-MB-576paa0055>

Adult Training / forms for all registered adults:

<https://www.samhoustonbsa.org/Data/Sites/1/media/forms/adult-disclosures-and-authorization.pdf>

Youth Protection Training: online course takes approx. 1 hr

<http://www.scouting.org/Training/youthprotection.aspx>

Cub Scout Leader Training: online course takes approx. 3 - 4 hrs. <http://www.samhoustonbsa.org/cub-scout-leader-training>

Youth Training / Advancements: Parents can mark their scout's advancements as Completed in Scoutbook. Den Leaders please mark as Completed and Approved for all advancements/awards for your dens before each months pack meeting.

Scoutbook: Make sure your scoutbook email is active and up to date to receive all Pack communications.

Pack 55 Communication & Training Tools

Pack Website: www.pack55.org

Scoutbook Advancement Tracking and Email updates: www.scoutbook.org

All Scouts BSA training website: www.my.scouting.org

Monthly Pack Newsletter: sent to all Pack emails registered in Scoutbook.

- During the school year, the newsletter is usually published on the Monday after a committee meeting. Please send your proposed short entry to our email address: pack55news@pack55.org.
- **Monthly submission deadline is by noon the Friday after each committee meeting.**

About the Pack 55 News

The Pack 55 News is a volunteer effort and is not an official communication of the BSA. Please consult the Sam Houston Area Council website for official BSA communications.

In an effort to consolidate pack wide messages and information into regularly scheduled communications, this newsletter will be circulated monthly in order to keep you apprised of **key pack news** and **upcoming events**. Time sensitive messages will still be sent via Scoutbook as a “News Flash” from adult leaders. Monthly Den meeting info and den specific messages will still come directly from your Den Leader.

If you **have an item you want included** in the monthly news, please send a short summary with key information (e.g., time, date, place, cost, contact info) to pack55news@pack55.org no later than noon the day after the monthly scheduled Pack Committee meeting (generally the first Thursday of the month). Newsletters will typically go out via Scoutbook email the Monday after the monthly Pack Committee Meeting. Thank you.