

The Gamehaven Gazette

June 29, 2025



**Scouting
America**

Gamehaven Council

Welcome to Another Issue of the Gamehaven Gazette



Recognizing Our Eagle Scouts

Congratulations to everyone on obtaining their Eagle Scout Rank. Your experiences and lessons learned from Scouting will serve you well into your future. All the Best!

- **Benjamin Dierks** - Troop 076 - Earned 03/30/25
- **Owen Gruber** - Troop 054 - Earned 05/08/25
- **Joslyn Gurtner** - Troop 082 - Earned 04/17/25
- **Heather Marshall** - Troop 082 - Earned 04/17/25
- **Justin Rice** - Troop 032 - Earned 06/05/25
- **Jonathan Scully** - Troop 110 - Earned 04/17/25
- **Christopher Simonson** - Troop 186 - Earned 05/15/25
- **Brandon Tasson** - Troop 110 - Earned 05/15/25
- **Aiden Thurber** - Troop 246 - Earned 03/30/25
- **Hollis Vanderveen Brunn** - Troop 094 - Earned 03/30/25
- **Quinn Weis** - Troop 231 - Earned 03/30/25
- **Anthony Woxland** - Troop 053 - Earned 05/08/25



Council Calendar

DATE EVENT/MEETINGS/TRAININGS

July 2025

- July 11-13 [Summer Cub Adventures](#)
- July 10 [OA Bowling Event](#)
- July 12 & 13 [Monster Jam Event](#)
- July 20 [Scout Night at the Honkers](#)

August 2025

- August 8-10 [Summer Cub Adventures](#)
- August 16th [Vikings Pre-Season Game 2](#) - Fundraiser

September 2025

- September 26-28 [Scouts BSA Fall Camporee](#) (mark your calendars)

October 2025

- October 3-5 [OA Fall Mawenemen](#)
- October 11 [Cub Scout Fall Family Adventure](#)
- October 25 **Fall Merit Badge Rally**- Mark your calendars

November 2025

- November 8 [Ten Commandment Hike](#)

[Challenge Course Certification](#)

July 13th 1-5pm

Leaders: Learn how to run the camp's new challenge course, including safety, age adaptability, and more

Hello Scouters & Parents

Many of you know that we moved to a new location in May. However, we still have people stopping by the old place unaware of our address change. If you could help pass the word along to other parents and Scouters we would appreciate that.

Our new address is: 511 Northern Hills Dr. NE, Rochester Minnesota.

The new location has given us some much needed room and we look forward to showing it off.

Any questions, please call the council office at 507-287-1410

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Remembering Father Frank

The first time I met Reverend Frank Jones in 2018, he shook my hand, looked me straight in the eye, and introduced himself as “Father Frank.” He had come into the office to renew his District Member registration. I instinctively knew this man had been around and was a Scouter through and through. He told me that he was one of the Thursday crew that did maintenance work at Gamehaven Scout Camp and that he also assisted with Chaplain duties at camporees. Each year after that first meeting, I would look forward to Frank coming to the office to renew his membership. It was one of my favorite tasks as Registrar to put together Frank’s last earned Veteran Award in 2023 for 65 years as a Scouter!

So, last November when I read a brief online obituary about Franklin Jones, I was hoping it wasn’t my Father Frank but was saddened to discover the birth dates matched. When Walt Borland, who had volunteered alongside Father Frank for many years called to request his Scouting profile in preparation for his Celebration of Life event, I knew that I wanted to know more about this larger-than-life man and to share it with everyone in Gamehaven Council. At his service of celebration on April 26, 2025, Pastor Jodi Heim, described Frank as “housing a servant heart.”

Frank Jones was born and raised in Allentown, Pennsylvania and participated in Scouts as a youth, achieving Life Rank. He was a 4-year member of the Alpha Phi Omega Scouting Fraternity while a student at Moravian College. Frank graduated from college in 1962 with a Bachelor of Arts and it was there he met Carol Altemose, who was to become his wife. He went on to seminary and served many Moravian Church communities, lastly with Berea Moravian Church in St. Charles, MN.

Even newly ordained as a pastor, Frank was drawn to Scouting and served as a Scoutmaster from 1965-1969 and continued this pattern for each of the communities he served as a pastor: Executive Officer, Chartered Org Rep, and Committee Member for Troop 18 from 1983-1993 while at Our Saviors Moravian Church, Altura, MN; Committee Member for Pack and Troop 337 from 1997-2009 while at Lake Auburn Moravian Church in Victoria, MN; and lastly Hiawatha District Member for Gamehaven Council from 2010-2024 while at Berea Moravian Church in St. Charles, MN. Frank also heard the call from National and served on the Religious Relationships Committee from 1997-2018. He attended many Jamborees and went to Philmont Scout Ranch 3 times.

Frank was recognized with Gamehaven Council’s highest Scouter honor-Silver Beaver Award- in 1990. He had previously been honored with the Den Leader’s Award, Scouter’s Key, District Award of Merit, and the Arrowhead Honor.

Frank’s main work as a Hiawatha District Member was with the Thursday maintenance crew at camp. He and the other start-up members of this volunteer crew-KC Reed, Walt Borland, Lynn Goldsworthy-would begin with cleanup from a previous event at camp and then get ready for the next. That might include chain saw work, brush removal, moving snow with the tractor, cleaning BB guns for the range, making signs, and definitely mowing.

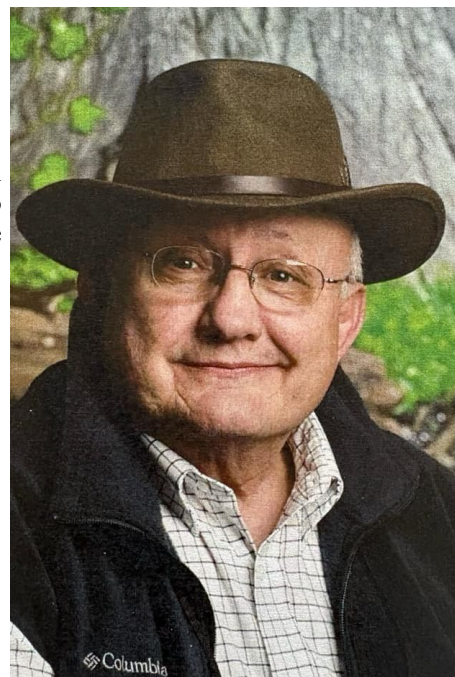
In fact, KC shared a story about Frank mowing west of the Gitche Gume trail at camp and getting too close to a fence, knocking it down and letting out goats that had been provided to clear wild parsnip and buckthorn. The crew had to help him wrangle the goats back into their pen and fix the fence. From then on Frank had the nickname of “Goat Herder.”

Talking with some of the present members of this group which includes KC Reed, Walt Borland, Chuck Willihnganz, Chuck Evenson, Ray Goranson, Tom DeMarais, Dave Ostrem, and Isaac Wendt, the highlight of their Thursday time is when they gather at lunch and share stories. They could always count on Frank to tell some good ones, like when he would hike near Camp David in Maryland and if he got too close to it, the Secret Service would check him out.

Thanks to the people who contributed to my article about this special man: Carol Jones, Walt Borland, Chuck Willihnganz, KC Reed, and his son David Jones. I am thankful for how Frank role modeled what it means to have a servant heart and hands. May you rest in peace in the Lord’s hands, Father Frank.

Reverend Frank Jones
March 8, 1940-November 23, 2024

Article Courtesy of: Pamela Legried -Registrar



How Does Your Garden Grow....

In anticipation of the growing season.....

Becky, Lily, and Molly from Troop 4, along with Matthew from Troop 18 decided to spend a Saturday afternoon early in April working on the Gardening Merit Badge.

We started out at the Cabbage Patch Garden Center in Wabasha. The Scouts learned how they winterized their perennials and are now getting them ready to sell.

After our field trip, we sat down and went over the other requirements of the merit badge, which included planting seeds to test for germination.

Soon the Scouts will be able to enjoy the beauty of the flowers they grow, and enjoy eating the vegetables/fruits!

Hope to keep everyone posted on how things progress with what they planted.





BLAST OFF! - We had our 2nd largest Spring Camporee in five years this last spring, with our Scouts participating in rocketry and space discovery themes over the course of the weekend. The highlight of course, was the rocket launch in the afternoon where over 200 rockets were launched into the air.



ON THE WEB - Our camp staffer Nate looks like he's a fly just waiting to be eaten.! This spring, our Cubs participated in a day-long adventure in the gorgeous Minnesota weather. At this station, they worked as a team to get through the giant spider's web built the day before.



IMPACTFUL CEREMONY– Through the hard work of several youth members, the Order of the Arrow conducted a re-imagined and refined callout ceremony at the Spring Camporee, which served to recognize and honor those youth that had earlier in the year been elected into Scouting's National Honor Society.

AN ICE FISHING WIN!

It's hard to tell who seems more happy– the fish or the camper! Actually...it's pretty clearly the camper. This is a great photo of one of the more than 30 fish caught during the inaugural ice fishing derby at the Gamehaven Reservoir.



A SPLASH IN THE POOL -

And lastly, we end with *in media rez* with our on-going summer camps! Between archery, swimming, hiking, fishing, crafting and more, it is hard to pick a favorite activity out of the bunch; but this shot of 3 campers playing a friendly round of basketball really stuck out.



Gamehaven Scout Camp A Hidden Gem in Our Backyard

One of my favorite activities is photography, and Gamehaven Scout Camp has some amazing scenery to capture. These various photo opportunities got me thinking about a group of individuals who come out to camp on a weekly or monthly basis, ensuring that our Scouts and community groups have this amazing opportunity.

This group of dedicated volunteers — Chris Arendt, Walt Borland, Tom DeMarais, Chuck Evanson, Brent Ferguson, Ray Goranson, Steve Menges, Mike Oberholtzer, KC Reed, and Chuck Willihnganz, and plenty of others — has ensured that our camp is ready for year-round use through their efforts. Mowing, tree removal, wood splitting, trimming, battling buckthorn, road and bridge work, painting, fixing cabins and lodges, and countless other tasks are things they do behind the scenes for our Scouts and programs. They truly define “*Grit, Perseverance, and Selflessness*” and are appreciated.

I’m excited to say that, as I type, the new challenge course is being erected and will be operational within the next couple of weeks. This project is possible because of the hard work and dedication of the Thursday, Project Spruce, Properties Committee, and unit volunteers, which enables the camp to continue improving structurally, allowing us to provide a meaningful program year-round. As excitedly, this is just the beginning of future improvements at Gamehaven Scout Camp!

Article & photo courtesy of
Arne Landsverk– Scout Executive

