



Mount Baker Council Summer of Service Activity Guide

MOUNT BAKER COUNCIL, BSA
COMMUNITY GOOD TURN COMMITTEE

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Welcome

2020 was a challenging year for our communities and through it all scouts did what scouts do best - they faced the challenges, adapted to the situation, and they did their best to navigate a path forward while helping others in the community. As we move forward into the next chapter of Scouting in the Mount Baker Council story, we are thrilled that you are joining us as we all “Do a Good Turn Daily” in our Communities!

Cheerfully serving our community is a great way to re-engage scouts and scouters in your unit and to meet potential new members of the scouting family in your community. We hope that Scouting units will view this initiative as an opportunity to have a positive influence in our communities and to grow the scouting movement.

Thanks for joining the Mount Baker Council as we “Do a good turn” this summer.

General Information

Why a Summer of Service? For over 100 years, Scouting families have answered the call to work together in service of the greater good. From public health drives, caring for the environment and assisting neighbors in need, Scouts have always been a force for positivity and goodness. It is what we do. It is part of our DNA. We serve others.

The Global Pandemic has disrupted many of the normal rhythms of Work, School, Home and Scouting in our society. Virtual work and learning via internet have bridged many basic gaps; but Virtual Scout Meetings and activities can only go so far. It is hoped that by planning and delivering on a commitment to others, Units will become invigorated and promote solidarity as a Unit and pride and purpose as individuals continuing down the Scouting Trail.

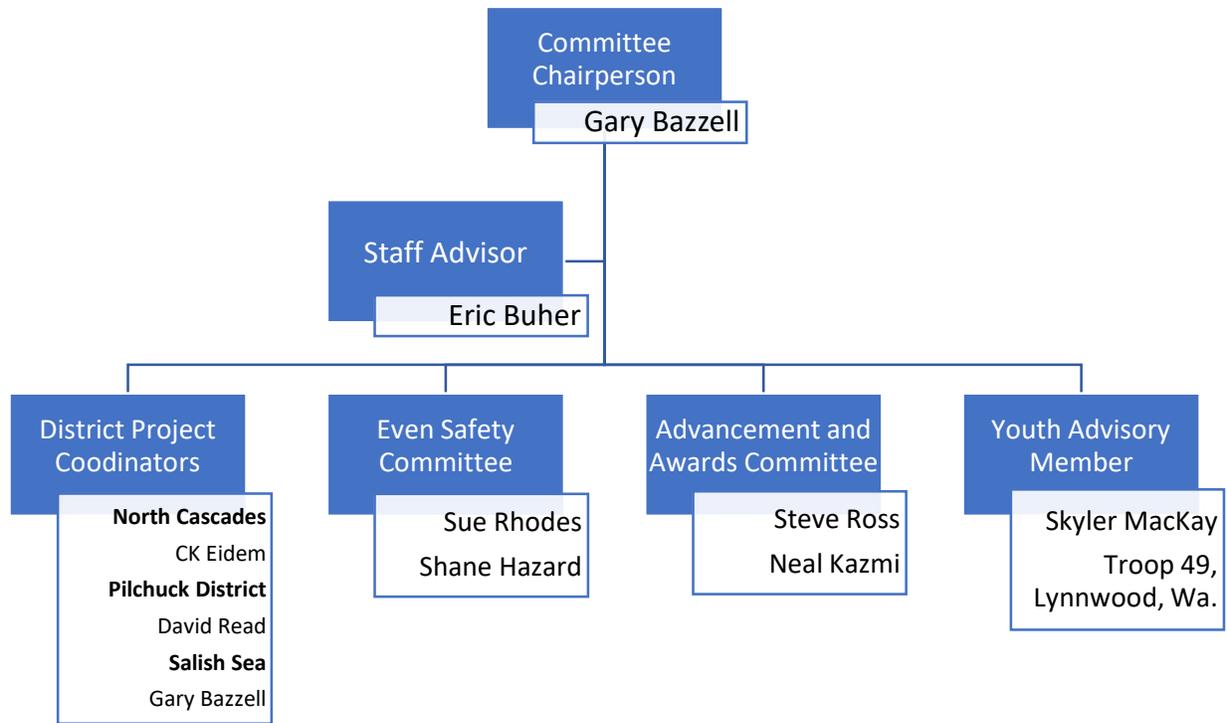
Now more than ever, our world needs that Scouting spirit and Mount Baker Council has a plan to facilitate this important work. This summer, we are stepping up. We’re answering that call to give back to our communities through a Summer of Service.

Our 2021 goal as a council is to clean up beaches and waterways in our region.

Specifically, our plan is to facilitate a series of five-hour service projects involving, 500 Scouts, 200 Adult Volunteers and 50 Invited Guests. If each of those 650 individuals participates in a 5-hour project and each person does at least one good turn every 45 seconds (like picking up litter), we will collectively do approximately a quarter of a million good turns in our community!



Mount Baker Council Summer of Service Committee Members



Two ways to participate

Council and District Organized Events

Signup beginning May 15th - <https://www.mountbakerbsa.org/GOODTURN/>

Multiple events to be held in each geographic district.

- North Cascades
- Salish Sea
- Pilchuck

Choose Your Own Adventure

- Follow the theme of beaches and waterfronts.
- Plan for your event to happen in August (if practical)
- Register your project on the council Community Good Turn website on or after May 15th
<https://www.mountbakerbsa.org/GOODTURN/>

Quick Start Guide - How to plan a conservation event for your Unit.

Be Safe! Be safe with tools. Properly use all safety equipment. Plan age-appropriate events for your scouts. Adapt to the weather. Follow Scouting rules including the buddy system and use common sense.

Have Fun! Service is the goal but always make it fun. Keep everyone wanting to come back for more. Cookies are an important part of having fun and therefore an important element in any successful conservation project.

Get Permission! Every service project happens somewhere. Make sure you have all the proper permissions to do what you are planning. Even if you are just picking up trash in a city park let the land manager know where and what you are doing. They may just decline your offer and simply say thanks or offer to help or tell you about safety concerns or offer a better alternative.

Consider the age and skills of your Scouts. A Bear Den and a Sea Scout Ship will have different skills and abilities. Make sure you plan age-appropriate events for your scouts. For example, a Scout troop with a strong hiking interest might challenge themselves to complete remote trail work with the Forest Service while a Pack might want to adopt a local park for litter pickup. Young Tiger Cubs might be more capable of more complex tasks than older Webelos because each Tiger comes with a parent, but the Tigers will likely have a shorter attention span so the event should be shorter. As a Unit Leader you know your Scouts and Scouters best - pick a fun and meaningful event that fits your unit.

Time of Year! Different tasks are easier and more successful when done at certain times of year. If you plant trees in the summer, they may die. If you stain a fence in the rain it may lead to a mess. Don't force a project into the wrong season.



Make the event part of the advancement program! Service projects are an important part of many rank advancements. There are also merit badges, skill awards and other rank advancement that fit perfectly into service projects.

Offer to Help! Almost anything you want to do has a community group focused on doing that type of work. They can help with equipment, coordination, education, and sometimes even cookies. Washington is full of community-oriented outdoor service groups. A Scout Unit is an asset for these organizations. They might even plan an entire event around just your unit. Checkout the list at the end for a non-exhaustive list.

PROJECT IDEAS AND HINTS!

We want to pick up trash! Recommended for all ages.

- Why? Trash is gross. It is often harmful to humans and animals and it just doesn't look nice. Picking up trash is usually easy, and it makes you feel good.
- Where? Parks, trails, any place there is trash. This is an easy way to help a local park or beach.
- When? Any time of the year.
- How? Safely. Use the proper equipment. This may include gloves and trash bags. Have a plan to identify and deal with hazards like broken glass, nails, needles, chemicals, dog-poop, and batteries. Have a plan to safely dispose of trash.
- Who can help? Any organization that manages land. Examples are, Parks, Cities, Forests, Campgrounds. Solid Waste departments and local government. Beach watcher organizations need a lot of help with plastic removal. These groups can often provide everything you need including a place to dump the trash.
- PRO TIP – Make litter pick up a part of every hike. Always carry a designated litterbag. Set a ten-trash goal for every scout and give an award (usually food) for most interesting litter of the day.

We want to build a BLANK house! Recommended for all ages.

- Why? What is a BLANK HOUSE? It is a home for a BLANK. In Mount Baker Council that is probably a wood duck, bat, tweedy bird, salamander, or a native bee.
- When? It depends on the BLANK and when you want it to be used. Normally summer is easiest for BLANK HOUSE installation late winter is best to get ready for most BLANK nesting. You can put up most BLANK HOUSEs anytime.
- How? Safely and with research. This will be a engaging project for most units. Start with the where. That will help you pick the BLANK for which to build a BLANK HOUSE. Almost every backyard could use a native bee house or a Tweedy bird house. Most green spaces could use a rock pile covered in brush and logs for salamanders. Most ponds and lakes could use a wood duck box. Get permission, get advice, and get building a BLANK house!



- Who can help? If it is not going in your yard, land managers knowledgeable in conservation can help determine the correct site for the BLANK HOUSE. The internet and books can help with designs. There are lots of plans on-line from: Audubon, Bats Northwest, WDFW, Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl. BSA publishes plans in various places like the Wolf Book and various merit-badge pamphlets. You can even buy kits from the trading post.
- PRO TIP – Use your favorite search engine to find a good design or to purchase a pre-packaged kit. Bats are cool. That’s not really a tip but it is true. Just one little brown bat can easily catch 1,000 mosquito-sized insects in an hour, and a nursing mother eats approximately 4,500 insects every night.

We want to BUILD a THING! Like a trail, or a bridge, or a ... Recommended for Scouts BSA and older.

- Why? BUILDING a THING is fun! All those THINGS help people safely enjoy the outdoors and protect the environment.
- When? It depends on the THING. Summer is easiest most of the time: for trails and bridges it might be the only time.
- How? Safely. By partnering with a THING BUILDING group or prepare to do research and coordinate with a land manager like the Forest Service. This will be a complex project for most units to take on alone and may require outside resources like donated lumber or donated money. Many Eagle Scout candidates BUILD a THING for their Eagle Project.
- Who can help? These projects can require a lot of planning and coordination by your Unit or almost none. It is recommended that you partner with a group that needs help BUILDING a THING to share the planning and coordination work. Trail groups like Washington Trails association, Earth Corps, Mountain to Sounds Greenway, and Eagle Scouts are always BUILDING THINGS. Many of whom will loan you tools, gloves, hammers, and giving away cookies.
- PRO TIP - Encourage a Scout working on their Eagle Scout rank to organize the THING BUILDING project for their unit.

We want to pull weeds! Recommended for all ages.

- Why? Weeds (non-native plants) take resources from, or kill native plants that birds, bugs, and animals use. Ivy, blackberry, scotch broom, morning glory, these invasive plants harm our forests and parks.
- When? Any-time of Year. Summer is the most effective.
- How? Find a group that is strategically pulling weeds and volunteer.
- Who can help? Any organization that manages land like - Parks, Cities, Campgrounds. Many Local Organizations have programs to pull weeds. See the list of weed-pulling groups at the end. Ironically, this list includes many of the same groups interested in planting trees.
- PRO Example – A local Troop did volunteer work parties at Fort Ebey State Park, pulling scotch broom. The park provided the weed wrenches and the small mountain of scotch broom that the scouts were able to pile up was pretty satisfying! They also combined it with clamming at Penn Cove and a cookout at Fort Ebey.



We want to Plant Trees! Recommended for all ages.

- Why? Trees are super cool. They eat sunlight and create oxygen. Neat. People birds, bugs, and other animals use their shade, hide in their branches, and benefit from the oxygen.
- When? Fall and Spring. Planting Projects in Western Washington are best done in fall and spring. After the last frost but before Earth day (April). Tree planting season starts again around Halloween, as the leaves are falling but before Thanksgiving. If its good duck weather, it is a good time to plant.
- How? Find a group that is planting trees and ask them how to volunteer.
- Who can help? Connect with a group that needs help planting trees to reduce your planning and coordination work and maybe you will even get free cookies. Tree Planting groups like Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Group, Earth Corps, Mountain to Sounds Greenway, Green Everett Partnership, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, and Sound Salmon Solutions, are always planting trees, explaining stuff, loaning out tools, gloves, and giving away cookies.
- PRO TIP – After you sign up you just show up to these events, wrangle your Scouts and enjoy the cookies.



USE LOCAL GROUPS TO PLAN EVENTS

Local Organizations helping salmon streams, forests, rivers, by planting trees, removing invasive vegetation, chucking salmon carcasses, picking up trash, building trails, lots of important work. These organizations have volunteer events most of the year. Most even have a published calendar of events. They need help especially in fall and spring to plant trees. They sometimes can tailor a project for a unit, and they often provide snacks, tools, and education. Most important they often give away cookies.

Important Note: Don't just sign up as individuals. Have someone from your unit reach out to the event organizer to register your entire group at the same time. This helps them plan for the size and capability of your entire group.

WHO TO CONTACT TO GET STARTED

SAN JUAN COUNTY

San Juan County - <https://www.sanjuanco.com/529/Volunteer-Opportunities>

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group - <http://www.skagitfisheries.org/events/>

WHATCOM COUNTY

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Agency - <https://www.n-sea.org/work-parties>

SKAGIT COUNTY

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group - <http://www.skagitfisheries.org/events/>

SNOHOMISH and ISLAND COUNTY

Sound Salmon Solutions - <http://www.soundsalmonsolutions.org/events>

Sound Water Stewards - <http://soundwaterstewards.org/web/calendar/>

Green Everett Partnership - <https://everettwa.gov/796/Green-Everett-Partnership>

Beach Watchers - <https://extension.wsu.edu/snohomish/beach-watchers/calendar/>

MULTIPLE COUNTIES

Washington Trails Association - <https://www.wta.org/volunteer/schedule/>

Earth Corps - <https://www.earthcorps.org/volunteer/calendar/>

Mountains to Sound Greenways - <https://mtsgreenway.org/get-involved/volunteer/>



Scouting Awards Opportunities

Service and Conservation are long-held values of the Scouting organization, and we want to recognize Scouts and Scouters for the intentional work they do in promoting these values. There are opportunities to earn a variety of National and Council awards for learning and applying environmental stewardship principles.

Summer of Service specific awards and recognition

There are two awards available to Scouts for specifically participating in the Summer of Service and the Council Good Turn Event:

[Know, Grow, Go! Service Award](#) - This award is available to Scouts and Scouters of all ages who participate in the Mount Baker Council Summer of Service event. Scouts are encouraged to learn about conservation and put this knowledge into practice with their Units through a variety of age-appropriate and engaging requirements.

[Summer of Service Patch](#) - This patch is available to purchase from www.scoutshop.org to celebrate the nation-wide effort of Scouts and the “Summer of Service” program.

Additional Awards Opportunities

Several other awards in the BSA program also tie in with this event. Some of these, which can be earned by completing additional requirements along with participating in a Summer of Service project, are listed here. Follow the links for more information!

[Conservation Good Turn Award](#) - This award is available to Packs, Troops, Crews and Ships who complete a conservation project that benefits their local community. A certificate is awarded to the Unit, and award patches are available to Scouts.

[World Conservation Award](#) - This award can be earned by Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers and Sea Scouts. The requirements teach Scouts about natural resources and our responsibility to care for them. This includes earning a few rank-specific adventures for Cubs or particular merit badges for Scouts BSA members, along with participating in a conservation project.

[Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award](#) - One of the activity options for this award is to participate in a conservation project and discuss how it helped you learn respect for nature.

[50th Anniversary Environmental Protection Agency Award](#) - This year celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA has partnered with the Boy Scouts of America to create a special award available until December 31, 2021 which can be earned by members of Troops, Crews and Ships. Scouts earn the special commemorative patch by completing the Public Health merit badge along with three other merit badges selected from a list, in addition to participating in a public health service project.



[Keep America Beautiful](#) – Hometown USA Award: The BSA and Keep America Beautiful Inc., have partnered since 1953 to make this award available to Scouts who complete a service project which physically benefits their community. They must also earn three merit badges off a list that focuses on community improvement.

[Distinguished Conservation Service Award](#) - Formerly known as the Hornaday Award, this is the highest award that the BSA gives to Scouts for their investment in conservation action. It requires planning and executing a minimum of two conservation projects in selected categories, each of which are equivalent in scope and effort to an “Eagle project”. Interested Scouts are encouraged to contact the Council to connect with an advisor who will help them through the process.

Project Safety

General Information

Not all possible situations are covered in this guide. Activity planners should evaluate the risk or potential risk of harm related to the project activity and proceed with action plans based on common sense, Scouting policies, community standards, and current public health recommendations. At a minimum, participants need to be free of signs of illness, maintain good hand hygiene, follow general safety practices, and comply with current public health guidelines.

Helpful Resources

Guide to Safe Scouting - www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss

This comprehensive document outlines specific policies for Scouting activities. This guide must be followed for all Scouting related activities and covers, among other things:

- Adequate adult supervision
- Communication with contingency plan
- Buddy system
- Physical fitness status of the participants
- Participant skill level
- Participants’ personal safety equipment
- Equipment selection and maintenance
- Safety of the area with potential hazards identified & mitigated as much as possible
- Weather checks
- First-aid resources, including plan to access additional help
- BSA safety procedures & policies, including incident-reporting



SAFE Service Project Planning Checklist

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safe/>

SAFE – (Supervision, Assessment, Fitness & Skills, Equipment & Environment)

This brief document provides clear guidance of safety protocols which must be in place for every service project, including the Council Good-Turn event. If it is not practical to meet these protocol expectations, the activity should not be conducted until adjustments can be made to satisfy them.

SAFE Project Tool Use Guidelines

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/healthsafety/pdf/680-028.pdf>

This brief document outlines minimum guidelines to consider for tools used during a service project, including age-appropriate guidelines for use of various tools.

Restart Scouting Checklist

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-693.pdf>

This brief document outlines minimal guiding protocols to consider as Scouters emerge from strict COVID-19 pandemic protocols into in person activities. Although related to COVID-19 prevention measures, many of these protocols are helpful beyond the pandemic:

- Restrict participants with signs of illness.
- Keep hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes readily available.
- Encourage frequent hand hygiene, either with soap & water or with alcohol-based hand sanitizer with minimum 60% alcohol.
- Encourage respiratory etiquette (cover coughs/sneezes & then wash hands)
- Avoid sharing personal items.





Boy Scouts of America

Mount Baker Council

Serving Snohomish, Whatcom, Skagit, Island and San Juan Counties

Know, Grow, Go! Service Award

Cub Scouts	Scouts BSA and Venturing	Adult Leader
Complete two activities for each section: Know, Grow, and Go!		
KNOW		
Memorize the Outdoor Code OR Leave No Trace Principles and repeat them to your parent or Scout leader. Explain what it means in your own words.	Memorize the Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace Principles and repeat them to your Scout leader. Explain what they mean in your own words.	Help a Scout in your Unit learn the Outdoor Code and/or Leave No Trace Principles. Explain what they mean in your own words.
Do a demonstration explaining how pollution gets into our water system and the effect it has on aquatic life. Share it with your Den or family.	Research an environmental issue and give a 5-minute presentation on it to your Patrol or Crew.	Learn about the WOSM "Earth Tribe" program, and share a summary of the program along with requirements for one Earth Tribe Challenge award to your Unit leadership.
Explain to your family or Scout leader what an invasive plant is and why they are a problem. Name three local invasive plants.	Learn about the WOSM "Earth Tribe" program, and share a summary of the program along with requirements for one Earth Tribe Challenge award to your Patrol or Crew.	Learn about the WOSM "SDGs for Scouts" initiative, and share an overview of the program along with examples of a project for each of three different SDGs to your Unit leadership.
Make a poster, Google Slideshow or short video (~1 minute) showing a way people can take care of the environment. Share it with your Den or family.	Learn about the WOSM "SDGs for Scouts" initiative, and share an overview of the program along with examples of a project for each of three different SDGs to your Patrol or Crew.	Investigate ways that your family can use less energy and water. Choose one of these ideas and track the number of times you do it for 30 days.
Investigate ways that your family can use less energy and water. Choose one of these ideas and track the number of times you do it for 2 weeks.	Learn about 3 merit badges which emphasize knowledge of and care for the environment, such as Nature, Environmental Science, Sustainability, Soil and Water Conservation, etc.	Learn about the NOVA Awards program, and what it takes to become a NOVA mentor. If appropriate, consider registering as a NOVA mentor with the Council.
GROW		
With the help of your adult partner or Scout leader, build and install a birdhouse, bat house, or bee house.	Build and install a birdhouse, bat house, or bee house. You can use your own design or one developed by a conservation agency.	Help a Scout complete two of their GROW requirements.
With the help of your adult partner or Scout leader, make and hang a bird feeder. Learn the names of three types of birds that come to visit it.	Make and hang a bird feeder. You can use your own design or one developed by a conservation agency. Learn the names of five types of birds that come to visit it.	TROOP: Have a conversation with a Life Scout about potential Eagle Project options that incorporate principles of conservation.
Plant three different types of seeds (they can be flowers, herbs, or vegetables) and care for them for 30 days.	Plant six different types of seeds (they can be flowers, herbs, or vegetables) and care for them for 30 days.	TROOP: Have a conversation with a Star Scout about potential conservation projects that they can work towards for Life Requirement 4.
Work with your family or Pack/Den to plant a shrub or tree and care for it for 30 days.	Go for a walk in your neighborhood or local park. Along the way, FILL and properly dispose of a bag of trash.	PACK: Take a group of Cub Scouts on a nature hike. On the hike, share a "nature nugget" that they've learned before.
Go for a walk in your neighborhood or local park. Along the way, pick up and properly dispose of at least 20 pieces of trash.	Earn one of the merit badges you learned about in the "Know" section.	PACK: Plan a conservation-related Cub Scout Adventure activity to deliver to your Pack this Fall.
GO		
Participate in a conservation project with your Den, Pack or Council.	Organize or participate in a conservation project organized by your Patrol, Troop or Council.	Assist with organizing or enabling participation in a conservation project for the Scouts in your Unit.
Discuss with your family, den, or Scout leader how the project you did contributes to the health of the environment and community.	Discuss with your family, patrol, or Scout leader how the project you did contributes to the health of the environment and community.	Discuss with your family, unit, or unit leadership how the project you did contributes to the health of the environment and community.

When you have completed the Know, Grow, Go! Service Award Requirements you can purchase the award patch from the Mount Baker Council Trading Post.