



Our New "Virginia Headwaters Council" Name

This week our Executive Board voted overwhelmingly to rename our Council. We passed a motion—championed by youth and symbolically seconded by our Order of the Arrow Youth Representative—to change our council name to the "Virginia Headwaters Council."

Underlying all this is an effort to get our local youth outdoors. More and more, we need to empower our youth to get outside and play. In so doing, they learn through adventure. Scouting's program is rooted in the wild. Nature is our classroom.

We need to strengthen our connection to the wild. Our council is well-positioned to do so because we live in an awesome environment. Nature sings here. We're very blessed.

Our local youth asked for a name well connected to our local nature. That new name had to meet the following criteria:

- Expresses our Local Story to Our Youth
- Inspirational to Our Youth
- Call to Action to Our Youth
- Unique to our Area and its Youth
- Absent of Material Distraction to Our Youth

In the end, we found a great name that met all these challenges.

Our "Virginia Headwaters Council" is home to the spring-waters of all 4 of the great rivers of Virginia and NE West Virginia that enter the sea directly out of Virginia. The James, York, Rappahannock, and Potomac Rivers all rise in our beloved council territory. No other place on earth is home to these headwaters.

Our youth spoke of exploring and protecting these headwaters. They want to discover, drink, fish, kayak, and protect our precious water. As stewards of nature and future servant leaders, that call to action makes us proud.

This change creates a local story we can all embrace. It creates a new opportunity for our local youth. It's all about our youth... our local youth. Our Virginia Headwaters Council staff and volunteers continue to live and teach Scouting Values in service to our youth. Our Scout Oath and Law embody these timeless values. How we promote may need to change over time, but these values never change. They remain our bedrock.

Change doesn't mean erasing history. Our council leadership remains very proud of our local heritage. We served our youth proudly under our old banner, which we'll retire with reverence. We look forward to serving them proudly in the Virginia Headwaters Council.

Yours in Scouting,

Virginia Headwaters Council Key Three