

ATTENTION AAPSM MEMBERS!

Volunteers Needed

By Bruce Blank, DPM

Scouts BSA currently has three merit badges focusing on medical disciplines: 1. Medicine, 2. Dental Medicine and 3. Veterinary Medicine. I've been working on a project to create a merit badge in Podiatric Medicine to give scouts the opportunity to be introduced to the "the best kept secret in medicine" – podiatry. If you have had any exposure to scouting or similar experiences, you realize that these are optimum opportunities to introduce young minds to career choices.

One such opportunity is occurring at a Podiatric Medicine Exhibit at the upcoming World Scout Jamboree (July 22- August 2, 2019). I respectfully ask that you continue reading about this initiative and humbly ask for your help in any way, whether through volunteering or through financial assistance. The purpose of this exhibit is to expose scouts to the profession of Podiatric Medicine & Surgery as a career choice even before entering college. I think that the successful creation and implementation of this exhibit and eventual creation of a Podiatric Medicine Merit Badge will result in a boost to student recruitment for our Podiatric Medical Schools.

The goal, other than introducing young people to a wonderful profession, is to increase the number of qualified applicants applying to fill the first year seats in our Podiatric Medical Schools. Also, successful completion of the exhibit is a first step towards creating a Scouts BSA Merit Badge in Podiatric Medicine. I have met with national leaders of Scouts BSA and presented my idea of creating a merit badge in Podiatric Medicine.

The Scouts BSA leadership is very interested in creating the new merit badge and recognizes how our profession and knowledge about foot and ankle conditions would fit hand in glove with scouting. However, implementation of this initiative will not occur for 2-3 years as Scouts BSA spend most of their efforts transitioning to admitting girls into Scouting. Annually, Scouts BSA sends a survey to its scouts and scout leaders. The surveys include a question about subject areas in which there is interest in creation of a new merit badge.

For the process of developing a merit badge in Podiatric Medicine, our profession would have to score well in the surveys. Hence, your support and interest in this initiative will be critical for Scouts BSA to determine if they should move forward with this new badge and if, and when, the new merit badge may be implemented.

To move forward with this initiative and create interest in Podiatric Medicine, Scouts BSA has invited the APMA to create a Podiatric Medicine Exhibit at the 2019 World

Scout Jamboree. APMA's Board of Trustees voted unanimously to support the idea. 2019 World Scout Jamboree July 22 – August 2, 2019 Summit Bechtel Reserve Mount Hope, WV <https://www.summitbsa.org> Program Outline Needed A minimum of 15 Podiatric Physicians and Surgeons to volunteer for 3-day segments to manage the exhibit and educate the scouts, scout leaders and physicians who attend the Jamboree. Also looking for company and individual pledges of donations to cover operating costs. Budget/Goal \$19,000 or more to offer a modest honorarium to volunteers, transportation and lodging costs for those volunteering (Airfare to be reimbursed; Mileage – IRS allows \$0.58/mile). Lodging will be at a very attractive nearby cabin which will house up to 8 volunteers at a time. Pledged to Date: \$7,000. We still need to fill the \$12,000 gap. Outreach To: Additional DPMs who are already volunteering as medical personnel at the Jamboree where they will treat scouts and leaders injured during the Jamboree.

These volunteer positions are separate from the volunteer positions I'm trying to fill. I am asking that they volunteer a few hours at the Podiatric Medicine exhibit when not attending to their other responsibilities. To: The Institute for Podiatric Excellence and Development and the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine to assist with logistics and administration of the Podiatric Medicine Exhibit. I welcome any of our affiliated and related organizations or other stake holders in Podiatric Medicine and Surgery for assistance and volunteers. I respectfully ask for your help with this initiative as it will be mutually beneficial to these young people and to our podiatric profession. If you can help in any way, please contact me as soon as possible. Currently, we need more volunteers and more pledges.

Fraternally,

Bruce G Blank, DPM, FASPS, FACFAOM –

BruceBlankDPM@gmail.com – 304-281-3668