Last night at the District Committee meeting there was a discussion of the history of North Star District.

Since the Council’s archives burned up in the last Camp Belzer Dining Hall Fire, we have to rely on outside sources.

I have found most all of my information from the *Indianapolis Star’s* “Column for Boy Scouts,” which ran weekly from around 1914 to about 1932. It served as the Indianapolis Council’s newsletter. A sister column also ran in the *Indianapolis News*.

On January 19, 1919, an actual news item “Districts Chosen for Scout Troops Entered in Meet” ran. In the opening paragraph, the districts sound temporary.

As the troops are assigned to districts, the article states, “The districts will be permanent. . . .”
Of our current North Star troops, troops 18 and 56 are mentioned. Our soon-to-be added Troop 72 is also mentioned. A predecessor Troop 35 is also mentioned, along with my childhood Troop 42.

Later that same year a District #5 eventually named the “Harrison District” is named for the Near Eastside of town. *Star* (12/13/1919).

Organizational meetings were held for those districts in later 1919. For example, District Number 2 is named “Northeast District.” Our current Troop 56 was one of the founding members and hosted the organizational meeting for that district at its founding Chartered Organization Hillside Christian Church near 19th and Brookside Avenue (then home to a Deacon with a troublesome son named “Dillinger,” who was never known to be in scouts). *Star* (10/26/1919).

The first mention of North Star District is when the predecessor Troop 35 moved into the district that I believe was the original District No. 4. Interestingly, later in the same article troops associated with District No. 4 are also informally referred to as the “north district.” *Indianapolis Star* (10/21/1919). This suggests that North Star was organized prior to October 21, 1919 and long enough before that its new title was familiar to the readers, justifying not referring to its original designation as District No. 4.

From this evidence, the best information we have is that the Indianapolis Council¹ officially began operating with 15-troop districts in January 1919. We have no evidence for when the originally designated District No. 4 had their organizational meeting. We know that two other districts were formally organizing in the fourth quarter of that same year. Likely, North Star’s organizational meeting proceeded those two district’s meetings.

By early in the Fourth Quarter of 1919, District No. 4 had already begun being referred to as the North Star District.

So if we are looking for the birthday of our district, we can say with great authority it is in January 1919. If we are seeking the first use of “North Star District,” it is later that same year.

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¹ Indianapolis Council was the predecessor to the Greater Indianapolis Council and one of the three councils merged in 1972 to form the Crossroads of America Council.