

# Gateway District e-Newsletter

August 2008

## Info for All Scouters

I have decided to start an e-newsletter to help keep more of the Scouters in our District better informed. Since the Council publishes "The Compass" on a somewhat quarterly basis, consider this e-newsletter your "Map". I hope you will find it to be a more timely and useful tool. This e-newsletter will be published on a monthly basis and updates will be published as needed.

I already have most of the Cubmasters', Scoutmasters' and Committee Chairs' email addresses, but if there are den leaders, assistant Scoutmasters, committee members, or any other registered adults who would like to be on the mailing list, please have them send the following information to me at [paul@bsacmc.org](mailto:paul@bsacmc.org).

First Name, Last Name, Unit Type & Number, Position and email address

Have them place this in the subject line: **Gateway e-newsletter subscription**

Make sure my email address is marked as safe or add me to your contact list to ensure these newsletters aren't discarded in the spam or junk mail file.

If you would like to be removed from this list, email me and let me know.

### Roundtables Change Location

Roundtables are changing venues this fall. We will be moving to Trinity Crossing in Princeton. It is an old grocery store that was purchased and converted into a fellowship and education space by Trinity Lutheran Church. It is a great facility and will fit our needs very well. It is located on the corner of North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. This location is on Google Maps is slightly off, but the link should help you locate it.

### [Google Maps link for Trinity Crossing](#)

Roundtables will be held on the second Thursday of each month starting in September (unless otherwise notified) and will begin at 7pm as usual. The District Committee will meet beforehand at 6pm.

There will be no roundtable on the regular night this month. Popcorn Sale and Sign up night materials will be distributed on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Details can be found below.

### Popcorn Sale Briefing

Gateway's Popcorn Sale briefing will be held on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Crossing in Princeton at 6:30pm. Make sure your unit has a representative there that night in order to receive the full commission on your unit's sale. There will be some new components to this year's sale, so make sure you have someone there to learn more and to collect your sale materials.

If your unit cannot send someone on the 25<sup>th</sup>, there will be a briefing at the Scout Office in Sartell on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

If you have not already, please email the contact info for your unit's popcorn kernel to me or to Wade Bastian at [wade@bsacmc.org](mailto:wade@bsacmc.org).

### Way to Go Gateway District!!

I would like to congratulate and thank all those who gave in this year's Friends of Scouting campaign. The Gateway District beat its goal of \$34,000 in pledges! This is the first time in a few years that we have reached goal.

### Scouting for Food

Scouting for Food materials will be distributed at the September Roundtable.

## **Cub Scouters**

### School Night

School Night, Sign-up night, Fall Round-up...whatever you call it, it is quickly approaching. Make sure you have your date, time, location and a contact person selected and let me know as soon as possible. I can have flyers made up for your Pack and get them to you as soon as I have the information.

The council will be running radio spots in the St. Cloud market referring people to our website ([www.bsacmc.org](http://www.bsacmc.org)) to find a sign-up night in their community. Leighton Broadcasting stations can be heard throughout the Gateway District and the PSA's will begin running in the next week.

Some tips to make your sign-up night successful:

1. Try not to hold your sign-up night on your regular Pack meeting night. It will take time to get your new families up to speed and organized, especially when forming the Tiger Dens.
2. Have a presence at your school's open house. Get a table there and create a schedule to have it manned by someone in uniform to answer questions. **This may be your best chance to get your Pack visible in the school.** Have info on when your sign-up night is, what fun things your Pack does and bring along some applications for those who are ready to sign up on the spot.
3. Have your boys wear their uniforms to school.
4. Promote your sign up night in the school announcements or on the school's Closed Circuit TV system.
5. Promote your sign up night on bank signs or other high visibility community message boards.
6. Take attendance at your sign-up night and follow up with those who did not fill out an application that night.

I will have posters, yard signs, applications and more to distribute on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at Trinity Crossing. This is the same time and location at the Popcorn briefing.

The Gateway District is poised to be a Centennial Quality District this year. Our goal is to recruit 350 new Cub Scouts this fall. With your help, we'll hit that mark and strengthen the Scouting program within our four-county area.

If you have questions, contact me or the District's Membership Chair, Bob Gerdes at [bobgerdes@gmail.com](mailto:bobgerdes@gmail.com). Bob is a great resource and has a passion for Scouting.

## **Boy Scouters**

### Centennial Recruiter Award

Any Boy Scout who recruits a friend to join your Troop will be eligible to earn a Centennial Recruiter patch. A photo of the patch can be seen [here](#). When sending in a new boy's application, include a note of who he was recruited by and I'll send the Scoutmaster one of the patches for the recruiting Scout.

### Troop Open House

Consider having your Troop hold an open house night. Have your Scouts invite friends to find out what Scouting is all about. Go on an outing, have a campfire, do something fun! I have a video from the national office that can give you some ideas.

### Ripley Rendezvous

Ripley is coming up soon. September 19 – 21. Your Troop should have been sent a sign up sheet in the mail. If you did not receive one, you can find it on the council's website.

### Order of the Arrow

If you are not familiar with the OA, it is the national honor society of the Boy Scouts of America. Founded in 1915, it uses American Indian traditions and ceremonies to bestow recognition on Scouts selected by their peers as best exemplifying the Scout Oath and Scout Law in their daily lives. Inducted members are known as Arrowmen or brothers and are organized into local youth-led lodges for fellowship and the rendering of service to Boy Scout councils and their communities.

OA is a great way to keep your older Scouts interested in Scouting. If you would like to have the lodge come conduct an election in your Troop, please contact Mary at the Scout Office at [mary@bsacmc.org](mailto:mary@bsacmc.org) and it will be forwarded on to the appropriate youth officer within the Naguonabe Lodge.

## **Venturing**

### Venturing Roundtable

We would like to see a Venturing Roundtable start up this fall to help strengthen the five Crews we have in the district. Roundtables give leaders an opportunity to get to know other leaders, share ideas and learn how to better run your Crew. If anyone is interested in leading this group, please let me know. A Venturing Roundtable would be open to adult leaders as well as the Youth Leadership of the Crews.